

# 'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

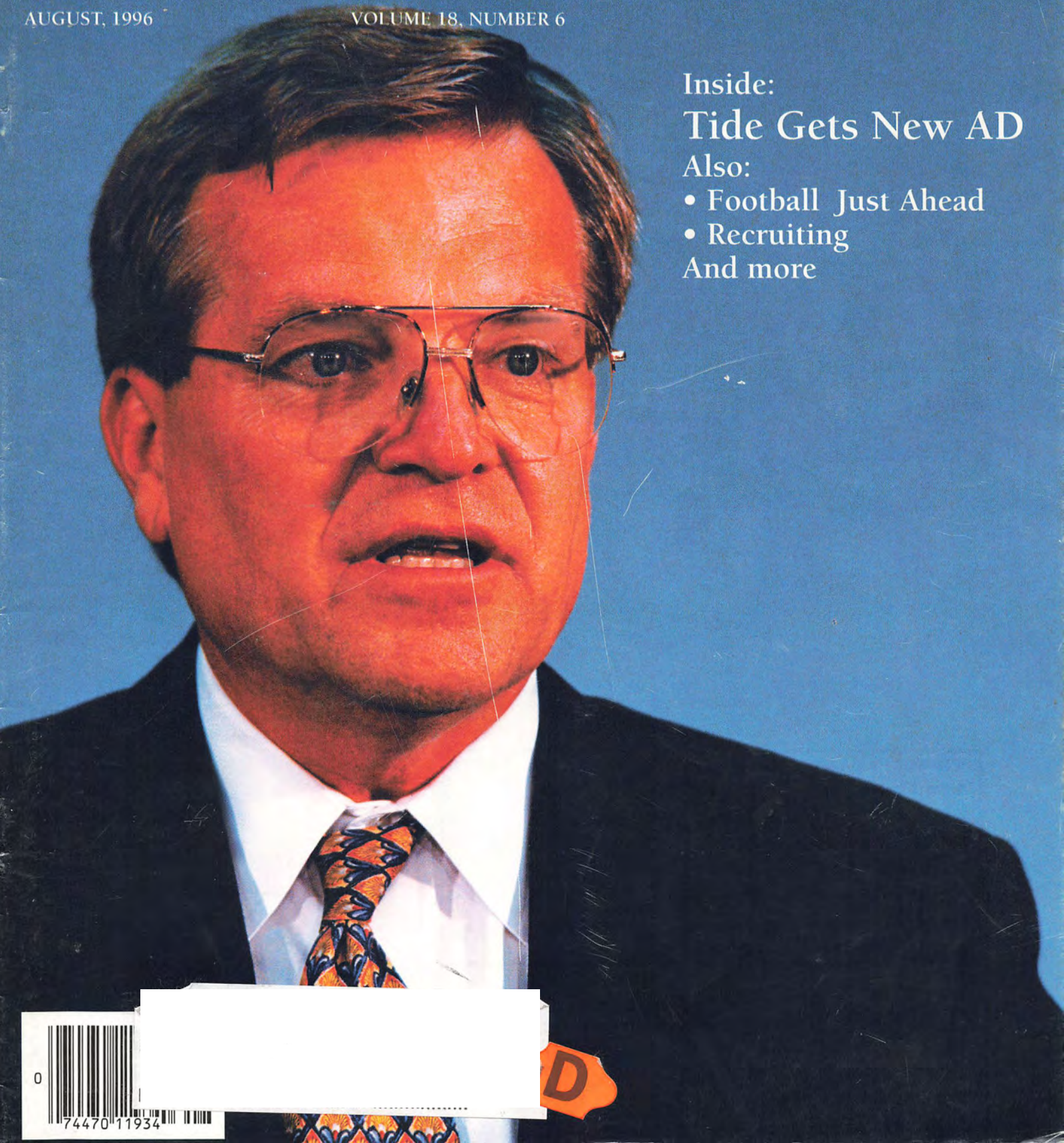
AUGUST, 1996

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 6

Inside:  
Tide Gets New AD

Also:

- Football Just Ahead
  - Recruiting
- And more

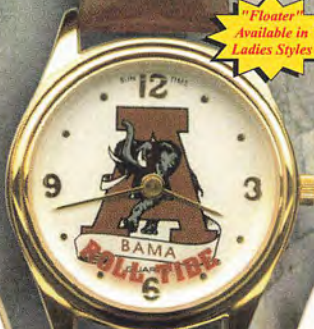




# ALABAMA®

**"Floater"  
Watch**

*"Floater"  
Available in  
Ladies Styles*



"Magically" Floating  
Roll Tide Second-Hand

**Musical  
Watch**



Plays "Yea Alabama"  
at the Press of a Button

**Sun-Glo  
Watch**



Dial Illuminates at  
the Press of a Button

**Squad  
Watch**



Stainless Steel Case with  
Leather / Nylon Strap

**Wall  
Clock**



**Children's  
Watch**



For the Young  
Alabama Enthusiast  
Available Oct. 15, '96

**MVP  
Watch**



*MVP  
Available in  
Ladies Styles*

Classic Timepiece with  
2-Toned Bezel & Strap

| WATCH <i>*(Specify Mens or Ladies)</i> | QTY | COST               | SUBTOTAL | \$5.00 S & H<br>PER WATCH | AL RESIDENTS<br>ADD 6% SALES TAX | TOTAL |
|--|-----|--------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| *Bama "Floater" Watch                  |     | \$49 <sup>95</sup> |          |                           |                                  |       |
| 'Bama Musical Watch                    |     | \$59 <sup>95</sup> |          |                           |                                  |       |
| 'Bama Sun-Glo Watch                    |     | \$59 <sup>95</sup> |          |                           |                                  |       |
| 'Bama Squad Watch                      |     | \$59 <sup>95</sup> |          |                           |                                  |       |
| *Bama MVP Watch                        |     | \$89 <sup>95</sup> |          |                           |                                  |       |
| 'Bama Wall Clock                       |     | \$29 <sup>95</sup> |          |                           |                                  |       |
| 'Bama Childrens Watch                  |     | \$22 <sup>95</sup> |          |                           |                                  |       |

SEND TO:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS (Not P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ DISCOVER # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. \_\_\_\_\_



MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

'BAMA MAGAZINE

P.O. BOX 866104

TUSCALOOSA, AL 35486 - 0054

PHONE ORDER: 1-800-713-2261



BAM 004

(ALLOW 4 - 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY)



# Order these college sports publications for your friends and relatives!!!



You enjoy following your favorite team no matter where you live so why not give your friends and family the same great opportunity. Every publication listed provides player features, game recaps, opponent previews, recruiting updates and much, much more. **Order your subscription today!**

Rick the Ref is a registered trademark and is owned by McMillen Communications.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 02. ARIZONA - Cat Tracks 33 issues, \$49                                 | 30. MISSISSIPPI - The Ole Miss Spirit 32 issues, \$40            |
| 03. ARKANSAS - Hawgs Illustrated 19 magazines, \$44.90                   | 31. MISSISSIPPI STATE - Dawgs Bite 38 issues, \$30               |
| 04. AUBURN - Inside the Auburn Tigers 10 magazines, 11 newsletters, \$30 | 32. MISSOURI - Inside Mizzou Sports 24 issues, \$37              |
| 05. BOSTON COLLEGE - Eagle Action 12 issues, \$34.95                     | 33. NEBRASKA - Huskers Illustrated 17 magazines, \$42.90         |
| 06. BYU - Cougar Sports Magazine 18 issues, \$29.95                      | 34. NORTH CAROLINA - Carolina Blue 40 issues, \$39.95            |
| 07. CINCINNATI - Bearcat Sports Digest 20 issues, \$32.95                | 35. NORTH CAROLINA ST. - The Wolfpacker 18 issues, \$29.95       |
| 08. CENTRAL FLORIDA - Into the Knights 11 issues, \$20                   | 36. NOTRE DAME - Blue & Gold Illustrated 20 issues, \$37.95      |
| 09. COLORADO - Buffalo Sports News 20 issues, \$35.95                    | 37. OHIO STATE - Buckeye Sports Bulletin 30 issues, \$45         |
| 10. CONNECTICUT - Husky Blue & White 14 issues, \$32.50                  | 38. OKLAHOMA - Sooners Illustrated 17 magazines, \$42.90         |
| 11. DUKE - Blue Devil Weekly 25 issues, \$31.95                          | 39. OKLAHOMA STATE - O State Sports Report 16 issues, \$34.90    |
| 12. EAST CAROLINA - Pirate's Chest 20 issues, \$25                       | 40. OREGON - Fighting Ducks Review 32 issues, \$59.95            |
| 13. FLORIDA - Gator Bait 32 issues, 2 previews, \$47                     | 41. PENN STATE - Blue White Illustrated 28 issues, \$42          |
| 14. FLORIDA STATE - Osceola 34 issues, \$48                              | 42. PURDUE - Gold & Black Illustrated 26 issues, \$35.95         |
| 15. GEORGIA - The Georgia Bulldog Magazine 30 issues, \$30               | 43. SOUTH CAROLINA - Spurs & Feathers 38 issues, \$32            |
| 16. GEORGIA TECH - The Sting 13 issues, \$21.95                          | 44. SYRACUSE - The Big Orange 24 issues, \$40                    |
| 17. ILLINOIS - Fighting Illini 18 issues, \$32.95                        | 45. TENNESSEE - Rocky Top News 33 issues, \$39.95                |
| 18. INDIANA - Inside Indiana 26 issues, \$36.95                          | 46. TENNESSEE - Volunteers Magazine 25 issues, 2 guides, \$29.97 |
| 19. IOWA - Voice of the Hawkeyes 25 issues, \$42.90                      | 47. TEXAS - Horns Illustrated 20 issues, \$37.95                 |
| 20. IOWA STATE - Cyclone Illustrated 25 issues, \$38.95                  | 48. TEXAS A&M - Aggies Illustrated 17 magazines, \$42.90         |
| 21. KANSAS - Jayhawk Insider 24 issues, \$37                             | 49. TEXAS TECH - Red Raider Sports 16 issues, \$34.90            |
| 22. KANSAS STATE - Purple Pride 24 issues, \$37                          | 50. UCLA - UCLA Scorecard 18 issues, \$43.95                     |
| 23. KENTUCKY - Cats' Pause 35 issues, \$47.50                            | 51. USC - USC Report 18 issues, \$43.95                          |
| 24. LSU - Tiger Rag 34 issues, 2 previews, \$48                          | 52. VIRGINIA - Cavalier Corner 12 issues, \$24.95                |
| 25. LOUISVILLE - Scorecard 32 issues, \$39.95                            | 53. VIRGINIA TECH - The Hokie Huddler 33 issues, \$34.95         |
| 26. MARYLAND - Terrapin Times 12 issues, \$39.95                         | 54. WAKE FOREST - Gold Rush 16 issues, \$24.95                   |
| 27. MIAMI - Cane Sport 21 issues, \$34                                   | 55. WASHINGTON - Sports Washington 17 issues, \$34.95            |
| 28. MICHIGAN - The Wolverine 25 issues, \$39.95                          | 56. WASHINGTON ST. - The Cougar 17 issues, \$34.95               |
| 29. MICHIGAN STATE - Spartan 18 issues, \$32.95                          | 57. WEST VIRGINIA - Blue & Gold News 32 issues, \$32.95          |

**CALL NOW 1-800-276-8401**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Number and Name of Publication: No. <input type="text"/>   | Name: <input type="text"/>                            |
| <input type="text"/>   | Address: <input type="text"/>                         |
| Amount Enclosed: \$ <input type="text"/>   | City: <input type="text"/>                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa | State: <input type="text"/> Zip: <input type="text"/> |
| Card No.: <input type="text"/>   | Phone: <input type="text"/>                           |
| Exp. Date: <input type="text"/>  |   |

Mail to: CSPA SUBSCRIPTIONS, P.O. Box 692, Holmes, PA 19043-0692

ALA





P.O. Box 866104  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054  
(205) 345-5074  
FAX (205) 345-1260  
E-Mail: BamaMag@aol.com  
For subscriptions: 1-800-713-2261

*Get the latest Crimson Tide  
sports updates!*



**Hotline**

**1-900-860-1979**

**Charge is  
\$2 for first minute,  
\$1 each additional minute**

**Callers under 18 obtain parents' permission  
24-Hour Service**

**Calls may be made from TouchTone  
or rotary dial telephone**

#### **FOOTBALL UPDATES**

Daily (Selection 2) after practices and games  
Weekly (Selection 3) by 7 p.m. CT Sundays

#### **UPDATES ON ALL BAMA SPORTS**

Updated weekly by 7 p.m. CT Sundays (Selection 4) beginning in  
September

#### **RECRUITING INFORMATION**

Updates by 7 p.m. CT each Sunday (Selection 5) beginning in September.

A service of 'BAMA Magazine  
2116 8th Street Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 (205) 345-5074

## **Editorial & Staff Directory**

Publisher: Lynne McNair  
Editor: Kirk McNair  
Circulation Director: Mary Ellen Palardy  
Assistant to the Publisher: Vera Dowdle  
Director of Promotions: Julia McNair  
Photo Editor: Barry Fikes  
Artist: Dan Proctor

#### **Contributing Writers:**

John Barnes, Stephen Craig,  
Lewis Each, Donna Fromme,  
Louise Ford, Vincent Moore,  
Donald F. Staffo, Andrew Varble II

#### **Contributing Photographers:**

Steven Fikes, Spectrum-Southeast,  
Butch Dill, University of Alabama

#### **Computer Consultant:**

Stephen Bushery, ComSouth

## **Publishing Information**

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE  
(USPS 489-470; ISSN 0195-0975) is pub-  
lished monthly for ten months from August  
to May by College Sports Publications, Inc.,  
2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401.  
Editorial office is located at 2116 8th Street,  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401-2134.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address  
to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON  
TIDE, P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL  
35486-0054.

Periodicals postage paid at Tuscaloosa,  
Alabama, and at additional mailing office.  
Subscription rate is \$35.00 per year. Foreign  
subscriptions \$10.00 per additional. Change  
of address: Six weeks advance notice, and  
old address as well as new required. Address  
all correspondence to: Post Office Box  
866104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0054.  
Not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts  
or photographs unless accompanied by re-  
turn postage. Copyright © 1996 College  
Sports Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.  
Reproduction in whole or in part without  
written permission is prohibited.

'BAMA is an independent publication, not  
associated with The University of Alabama.

CHARTER MEMBER

**CSPA**

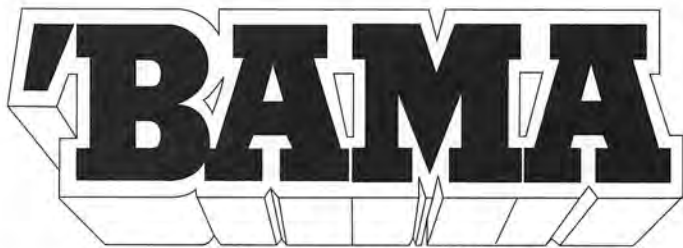
**College Sports  
Publishers Association**

P.O. Box 13515  
(352) 372-1215

Gainesville, FL 32604  
FAX (352) 372-2283

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/AUGUST '96





INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

AUGUST, 1996

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 6

# CONTENTS

On the cover: Alabama's new Director of Athletics Robert Bockrath is highly-regarded as an athletics administrator, particularly in the area of promotions. He is now on the job. See Page 12.  
Barry Fikes Photo



Page 6

## Football Just Ahead:

### Catching Up On The Crimson Tide

6

It has been a relatively uneventful summer on the Alabama football scene, and usually no summer news is good. Beyond that, most of that little news has been on the positive side. by Kirk McNair

## Prep Prospects:

### An Early Look At Football Recruiting

8

Alabama will be able to sign 24 new football players in February. That seems a long time away, but Alabama coaches have already begun the process of identifying top prospects in Alabama and around the Southeast. by Kirk McNair

## Robert Bockrath:

### Bama Gets A New Athletics Director

12

New University President Dr. Andrew Sorensen has made his first major appointment by selecting Robert Bockrath of Texas Tech as Alabama's new athletics director. Bockrath has an impressive resume. by Kirk McNair

## Michael Myers:

### Junior College Transfer Getting Ready

14

Although Alabama did not recruit Michael Myers out of high school, Myers' All-America performance at Hinds Junior College got Bama's interest in the big defensive lineman. Although he spent much of the spring at tackle, and could play tackle, his future is at defensive end. by Donald F. Staffo

## Calvin Hall:

### He's Battling For First Team At Split End

16

Alabama's football team had serious losses at the wide receiver positions, but players like sophomore Calvin Hall expect to be able to get the job done this fall. by Kirk McNair

## Brenon Meadows:

### He's Worked Hard To Get To Bama

20

Junior offensive guard Brenon Meadows had plenty of reasons not to be playing football at Alabama, but that's where he always wanted to be and he's overcome big odds to make it. by Kirk McNair

## Spring Signees:

### Basketball Adds Top Prospects

23

The spring signing period was very good for most Alabama teams, and the men's and women's basketball teams were particularly noteworthy for their additions. Those squads both have recruiting classes ranked among the nation's best. by Stephen Craig

## National Champions:

### A Very Special Year For Gymnastics

26

The Alabama gymnastics team of Coach Sarah Patterson had finished second in three consecutive NCAA Championship meets, but when the tournament returned to Tuscaloosa this spring, the home crowd helped Bama to its third national crown. by Lewis Each

## The Departments

Football Schedules

10

Scorecard

28

Basketball Schedule

29



Page 20



# Catching Up On The Crimson Tide

by Kirk McNair

The summer has been relatively uneventful, which is usually good news

Summertime and the living is easy. Well, actually it can be uneasy when there are 100 or so players and coaches involved in a college football program. A slip by any one of them is unwelcome news. Fortunately, this has been a summer of mostly no news in Alabama football, which is generally good news in the college football business. And what few items have emerged have been on the positive side.

Following the Gene Stallings Football Camp in early June, Alabama's football coaches were out of the office until early July. When they reassembled following the Fourth of July weekend, it was full speed, daily meetings in preparation for the beginning of practice. On the other hand, almost every returning Crimson Tide player spent the entire summer in Tuscaloosa. Most players were taking classes, a few were working, and all were working out diligently. Most conversation in Tuscaloosa, on talk radio stations and on that newest of media, the Internet, concerned Bama quarterback Freddie Kitchens. In no particular order, the questions regarding Kitchens center on his weight, his academic situation, and his arm.

Kitchens is a big boy, and he got up well over 240, perhaps over 250, in the spring. Stallings is not going to have a 240- or 250-pound quarterback, probably not a 230-pounder. Kitchens was ordered to report back in August at a certain weight, generally assumed to be 222. With a few weeks to go, Kitchens was barely under 240, but assuring everyone he would report under 230. He is continuing to work very hard in the weight room and on the running fields, but Kitchens likes to eat and, like a large number of his schoolmates, he enjoys the occasional high calorie beverage.

It's true that Kitchens took some summer school work, but not because he had to for eligibility reasons. Word around the athletics department is that he took one course in each session of summer school so he would qualify to eat in Bryant Hall.

As for his arm, which was affected when he injured his shoulder late last season, preventing him from being full speed in the spring, the Alabama medical staff believes he will be 100 per cent when drills begin. Strong-armed quarterbacks and baseball pitchers have what are known as "loose shoulders," which permit the range that en-



Gene Stallings

ables them to throw hard. Kitchens' had some irritation in the shoulder, but has rehabilitated throughout the summer.

Otherwise on the injury front, Bama goes into fall work in pretty good shape. Safety Cedric Samuels missed most of spring work with a bad ankle, then re-injured the ankle following spring drills, but has rehabilitated and should be 100 per cent. Defensive tackle Eric Kerley also missed some spring practice with a bad ankle, but he, too, has recovered. Linebacker Lamont Floyd strained a chest muscle in the weight room late this summer, but should be back relatively soon. However, walk-on defensive tackle Chris Warren suffered a knee injury in a summer pick-up basketball game and his status is doubtful.

The Alabama freshmen signees (and probably a few invited walk-ons who are new players) will report to campus on August 4 and have workouts August 5 and 6. The returning players will report August 7, have physicals August 8, and practice with all players will begin August 9. The first day of work in full gear will be August 13. The Tide will have one week of two-a-day practices until the beginning of classes on August 19. Until classes begin a team may have only 85 players (scholarshipped and non-scholarshipped combined) in practice. When classes begin the returning walk-on players not already in camp and new walk-on players will be permitted to join practices. One new walk-on expected is 6-0, 205-pound outside

linebacker Forrest Ford, son of former All-Southeastern Conference defensive end Mike Ford. Forrest played high school football at Tuscaloosa Central, but has been in junior college (not playing football) the past two years.

Among the walk-ons expected when new players report August 4 are two placekickers. Jonah Dismukes, an all-state player from St. Paul's in Mobile, and Jon Brock, a senior who has been playing at Pacific (which gave up football this year, meaning Brock will be immediately eligible at Alabama) will be battling William Watts, Brian Cunningham and Ryan Pflugner, the top three from an inconsistent spring.

All returning players will be academically eligible. However, one signee has already announced that he did not qualify and will attend prep school. Tight end Gorman Thornton of Montgomery Jeff Davis, who was Mr. Football in Alabama, will be able to re-sign with Alabama and will have four years of eligibility remaining if he qualifies after attending prep school. There are questions about two other signees. Alabama signed 15 players last year, one over the limit allowed by NCAA sanctions. Tide coaches signed one extra in anticipation of one signee not being eligible. Now it is possible that one or two others in that small class will not be eligible. Pearl River Junior College transfer Heath Panks, a defensive tackle, had summer school work to do in order to gain eligibility. He reportedly transferred to Shelton State in Tuscaloosa for the final courses he needed. Earlier reports were that defensive end Kenny Smith of Stevenson North Jackson had gained eligibility, but a report in late June questioned that. The NCAA Clearinghouse, which rules on all eligibility questions, will make the final determination on Smith. If he is not eligible, he should be a partial qualifier, meaning he would be able to attend Alabama on scholarship and practice, but would not be allowed to play as a freshman. There are unconfirmed reports that Alabama may have a line on a junior college player who was not expected to be eligible, and thus was not signed, but who has gained eligibility. That seems unlikely, but could be possible.

Smith did not play in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game because of a slight knee injury suffered in practice for the game. However, physically he is fine. Thornton was widely-reported as the finest looking athlete on the Alabama squad in that game. Dismukes kicked a field goal and Thornton had a key catch in the Alabama team's 17-14 win. On the Mississippi side, Tide signees Jamie Carter at defensive tackle and Rob-E Staten at linebacker were reported as having played satisfactorily. The only Alabama signee to participate in the Georgia-Florida All-Star Game was center



Paul Hogan, who played the entire game for the Georgia squad. There is some concern that Hogan is not yet as big as expected, perhaps only in the 230-pound range. Hogan was one of those who took part in the Olympic Torch run to Atlanta. His high school coach, the legendary Nick Hyder, died unexpectedly this spring on the practice field at Valdosta. He had been selected as one of those to carry the torch. In his place, the entire Valdosta team took part in the run and Hogan was selected to carry the torch for the squad.

**I**t was not a great surprise when Stallings announced late this summer that two players who had been suspended for spring training will re-join the team this fall. Linebacker Ralph Staten, who is a returning starter, and halfback Brian Steger, have fulfilled the requirements Stallings had set for their reinstatement. Steger, who was a regular last year, is expected to have a tough time breaking into the playing rotation because of the excellent work by Dennis Riddle, Curtis Alexander, Shaun Alexander and Montoya Madden.

**A**n NCAA rule regarding dormitories for athletes goes into effect this fall. The NCAA determined that it is an advantage for those schools that have athletic dormitories, and so the membership voted that beginning this year no dorm can have more than one-half athletes (or athletically-connected students, such as managers or student-coaches) in it. It doesn't matter that this is an absurd rule. Alabama (and most other Southeastern Conference teams) have had athletic dorms. However, the likes of Penn State and Notre Dame have chosen not to have dormitories, and have done well.

Bryant Hall has room for about 110 students. It is believed that Stallings will put his new players in the dorm, then fill out the remaining rooms with the most critical players, basically his first two teams offensively and defensively.

Also new this year is a rule that a school can provide only one training table meal for athletes. In the past, football and men's basketball players (who have not lived in Bryant Hall for a couple of years) have had three training table meals each day in Bryant Hall. Other athletes have had their training table meals at other dorms. Now, all athletes will have one training table meal per day (probably the evening meal) at one location, which will not be Bryant Hall.

**T**he SEC members split up a record \$45.5 million in joint revenue this year, but Alabama didn't get a full share. However, the Tide will get part of its missed income in five years if Alabama football can keep its nose clean with the NCAA. The average distributed to each school was \$3.8 million. Although there were published reports that Alabama did not participate in this division, that is incorrect. A team on

NCAA probation does not participate in SEC revenue in those areas in which it is not eligible. Thus, Alabama did not share in the \$8.4 million the SEC received in bowl revenue. However, Alabama was eligible for television (which accounted for \$14.6 million of the pie) and all other revenues.

**T**he expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium has been pushed back a year. Originally scheduled to be completed prior to the start of the 1997 season, University President Dr. Roger Sayers announced in mid-June that explosive growth (and resulting construction) in the Tuscaloosa area has forced a postponement. Construction has begun with foundation and utilities work. However, all facets of the expansion are now being re-bid with the 1998 completion date. The change is expected to significantly reduce the cost of the expansion, currently estimated at \$30 million. The addition will include a number of skyboxes and will increase capacity by approximately 12,000 to 82,000. The construction will not affect home games in 1996 or 1997 except that this year (at least) there will be no lights on the East side of the stadium, which means Alabama is starting all its games no later than 1 p.m. (unless ESPN elects to put in temporary lights in order to televise a Tide game at night). Ordinarily the Homecoming game (Kentucky this year) has started at 2 p.m. in order to allow plenty of time for the parade and other festivities that go along with the game, but this year will begin at 1 p.m. While there has been speculation that Alabama might move all home games to Tuscaloosa when the expansion is completed, The University stance is that the contract with Birmingham will be honored and that Bama will continue to play three home games (including the Tennessee and Auburn games in alternate years) at Legion Field in Birmingham through 2001.

Bryant-Denny Stadium also had some work done on (and under) the field this year. The drainage problem under the Prescription Athletic Turf grass field had to be replaced. The field is designed so that water is pumped off it from under the turf. After the work was completed (that work the reason there was no A-Day Game this spring), the field had to be re-planted. That has gone well. In fact, as of the last week of June the new turf had been mowed three times and was nearly free of any bare patches.

Alabama also elected to do away with the last vestige of an outdoor AstroTurf practice field this spring. Previously 50 yards of the 100-yard outdoor AstroTurf field had been replaced with grass. This spring the remainder of the AstroTurf was removed and the Tide will have a full length grass practice field in its place beginning with fall practice in August.

On those occasions when Bama needs to have some work on AstroTurf, the Tide can go into the 80-yard indoor facility.



# FOOTBALL FAX

Get up-to-date information on football and recruiting with the 'BAMA FOOTBALL FAX. Reports come three days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) during football season, after practices in spring training, and Monday through Friday on recruiting beginning January 6 through football signing day. You get accurate reports waiting for you when you reach your Fax machine each morning.

This exclusive for 'BAMA MAGAZINE subscribers is available for \$150 and your Football Fax subscription carries an unconditional money back guarantee on the unused portion.

Reports begin in August, so rush your order today.

To subscribe, complete the form and mail to:

'BAMA FOOTBALL FAX  
P.O. Box 866104  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054

OR (credit card orders only)  
CALL 1-800-713-2261  
OR FAX (205) 345-1260

☐ Yes, I want Football Fax. I enclose \$150.

☐ Check or money order

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Sig. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_



# An Early Look At Football Recruiting

by Kirk McNair

Tide will seek top players in Alabama and expand efforts in the Southeast

See if you can follow this. One of the on-going problems in Alabama's football office has been its inability to get straight with the NCAA. After being penalized in a manner unprecedented in NCAA history for two violations in 1995, the matter of some Alabama football players having bought wheels and tires on credit from Bojo's Discount Tires in Birmingham continued to nag. Late last fall Alabama declared six players ineligible because of their debts. Four of those players almost immediately cleared up the debts and had their eligibility restored. (None were declared ineligible for practice, only games.) Later in the spring, it was announced that two Alabama players were still ineligible. Additionally, after the NCAA Investigative Staff looked into the matter, it determined no penalty was warranted.

However, the matter was routinely turned over to a member of the Infractions Committee (a member whose identity is kept secret) for review, and that member of the Infractions Committee determined that if there had been a violation, then the action of Bama Assistant Athletics Director Gerald Jack would have been inappropriate. Therefore, he penalized Alabama one initial grant-in-aid, meaning Alabama will be able to sign only 24 new players in February. Alabama elected to accept the penalty.

This is not the first time the Infractions Committee and the Investigative Staff have disagreed on penalties for Alabama. In the long-running investigation of the Antonio Langham/Gene Jelks affair the Investigative Staff recommended Alabama being able to sign only 14 players in 1995, the penalty Alabama recommended for itself based on NCAA precedent. The Infractions Committee in a venomous announcement added two more years of probation, loss of 11 scholarships in 1996 and eight in 1997, as well as forfeiture of seven victories and a tie in 1994 and no bowl game for Bama in 1995. Alabama



Kecalf Bailey

got unprecedented relief on appeal, so the Tide would have been able to sign 25 in 1997 without this latest penalty. So, does the Infractions Committee have a problem with Alabama, a problem with the Investigative Staff, or a burr in its saddle because Alabama's appeal found the Infractions Committee in error in its original finding against the Tide? Regardless, Alabama pays another penalty, and can sign only 24 in February. (There's still no word on whether the Infractions Committee is finished with Alabama, but the next battle could have the committee on the defense if former Faculty Chairman of Athletics Tom Jones, who was slandered by the committee before the Appeals Committee overturned the error, elects to sue.)

On the good news side, Glen Tuckett, the former interim athletics director who is staying aboard at Alabama during the transition period under new Athletics Director Robert Bockrath, said the two players had made their payments to Bojo's and would be eligible this fall. The players were never identified by The University.

It appears to be a year in which there are some very good football players in the state of Alabama, but perhaps not as many as is usually the case. Bama coaches have worked the entire state and will resume

recruiting statewide this fall, but the recruiting boundaries are spreading out. Bama will work very hard in the Atlanta and Memphis areas, recruit Mississippi like it's Alabama, go into the traditional Florida Panhandle area, but also into talent-rich Jacksonville and Orlando areas, and return to recruiting Louisiana (with Curley Hallman taking most of the state and Mike Dubose working the New Orleans area) and South Carolina. Bama will also continue to have a presence in Texas and in selected parts of the entire Eastern United States.

Here are some of the top high school players in Alabama who have been linked to the Crimson Tide, either Bama having an interest in them, them having an interest in Alabama, or both. (For that reason, one of the top listed prospects in the state, 6-3, 212-pound linebacker Kevin Dansby of Birmingham Ensley, is not listed. He is the brother of Notre Dame tackle Melvin Dansby.)

Jeffrey Aaron, 6-3, 185, defensive back, Montgomery Jeff Davis; Kecalf Bailey, 5-9, 170, defensive back, Tuscaloosa Central; Herman Banks, 6-1, 175, wide receiver, Hartselle; Michael Barfield, 6-4, 275, offensive lineman, Dothan Northview; Roderick Chambers, 6-3, 225, linebacker, Eufaula; Adam Cox, 6-0, 200, running back, Jasper Walker; Antonio Davis, 6-3, 215, tight end, Grove Hill Clarke County; Tony Dixon, 6-1, 185, running back, Reform Pickens County; Shawn Draper, 6-4, 255, tight end, Huntsville Butler; Ben Fox, 6-3, 240, lineman, Brantley; Kenyon Hambrick, 6-2, 175, wide receiver, Huntsville Johnson; Jerome Jenkins, linebacker, Gadsden Emma Samson; Jeff Kelly, 6-2, 200, quarterback, Citronelle; Wayne Madkin, 6-5, 200, quarterback, Huntsville Johnson; Philip Milton, 6-2, 222, linebacker, Birmingham Wenonah; Rob Pate, 6-2, 200, defensive back, Birmingham Erwin; Larry Paul, 6-3, 240, fullback, Moody; Carlton Pearson, 6-2, 240, linebacker, Stevenson North Jackson; Kyle Reeves, 6-2, 210, quarterback, Attalla Etowah; Stanford Simmons, 6-2, 190, wide receiver, Ashland Clay County; Jason Standridge, 6-3, 205, quarterback, Birmingham Hewitt-Trussville; Fred Weary, 6-4, 285, lineman, Montgomery Lee; Chris Wheeler, 6-1, 205, linebacker, Sylacauga B.B.



Comer; Antoneyo Williams, 6-0, 200, running back, Tuscaloosa Central; and Joe Yount, 6-4, 245, defensive end, Albertville.

Other prospects (including a few in junior colleges) from around the Southeast who have been linked with Alabama include:

FLORIDA—Bennie Alexander, 5-9, 165, defensive back, Lake Butler Union County; Alex Brown, 6-3, 220, linebacker, Jasper Hamilton County; Travis Carroll, 6-4, 225, linebacker, Jacksonville Bolles; Demontray Carter, 5-10, 170, running back, Pensacola; Char'ron Dorsey, 6-7, 305, offensive lineman, Jacksonville Bolles; Patrick Hampton, 5-11, 185, running back, Lake Butler Union County; Tom Hillard, 6-3, 250, offensive lineman, Jacksonville Bolles; Abdul Howard, 6-2, 200, defensive back, Quincy Shanks; Raynard Lee, 6-3, 225, tight end, Marianna; Sam Matthews, 6-6, 265, Jacksonville Bolles; William McCrary, 6-0, 215, fullback, Jacksonville Bolles; Rashad Pittman, 6-0, 215, fullback, Marianna; Gerard Warren, 6-3, 290, defensive lineman, Lake Butler Union County; and Andrew Zow, 6-2, 188,

defensive back, Lake Butler Union County.

GEORGIA—Cortez Allen, 6-1, 215, linebacker, Decatur Southwest Dekalb; Derek Allen, 6-2, 240, defensive lineman, Duluth; Robert Carswell, 6-2, 200, defensive back, Stone Mountain; Antonio Cochran, 6-5, 280, defensive lineman, Milledgeville Middle Georgia Junior College; Casey Coleman, 6-6, 300, offensive lineman, Decatur Southwest Dekalb; Meico Collier, 6-2, 212, quarterback, Cordele Crisp County; Bryan Corhen, 6-5, 280, defensive lineman, Albany Dougherty; Darrell Dupree, 6-3, 290, offensive lineman, Decatur Southwest Dekalb; Deon Grant, 6-4, 190, defensive back, Augusta Josey; Jabori Holloway, 6-3, 235, defensive lineman, Tyrone Sandy Creek; Jamal Lewis, 6-1, 215, running back, Atlanta Douglass; Trey Love, 6-3, 240, defensive end, Bainbridge; Melvin Richey, 6-5, 275, defensive lineman, Decatur Southwest Dekalb; Jasper Sanks, 6-3, 205, running back, Columbus Carver; Whitt Smith, 6-4, 218, linebacker, Cordele Crisp County; Armark Tolbert, 6-1, 185, defensive back, Augusta Josey; and Travis Zackery, 6-1, 170, running back, Marietta.

LOUISIANA—Major Applewhite, 6-1, 195, quarterback, Baton Rouge Catholic; Greg Brown, 6-2, 195, defensive back, Baton Rouge Catholic; Travis Minor, 6-0, 190, running back, Baton Rouge Catholic; Ernie Moore, 6-6, 240, defensive lineman, Slidell Salmen; and Thomas Pittman, 6-4, 255, defensive lineman, Reserve East St. John.

MISSISSIPPI—Orlando Dantzler, 6-4, 235, defensive end, Purvis; Marcus Evans, 6-6, 240, defensive end, Waynesboro Wayne County; Emarlos Leroy, defensive lineman, Senatobia Northwest Mississippi Community College; Dulymus McAllister, 6-3, 193, running back, Morton; Terrence Metcalf, 6-4, 288, offensive lineman, Clarksdale; and Kenny Smith, 6-4, 285, defensive lineman, Meridian.

SOUTH CAROLINA—Jamal Reynolds, 6-4, 225, defensive end, Aiken; and Kyle Young, 6-3, 240, lineman, Central Daniel.

TENNESSEE—Decoryre Hampton, 6-7, 325, Memphis Westwood; Mario Kelso, 6-0, 170, defensive back, Smyrna LaVergne; Austin Kemp, 6-4, 215, linebacker, Brentwood Academy; and Tito Lee, 5-11, 210, fullback, Brentwood Academy.



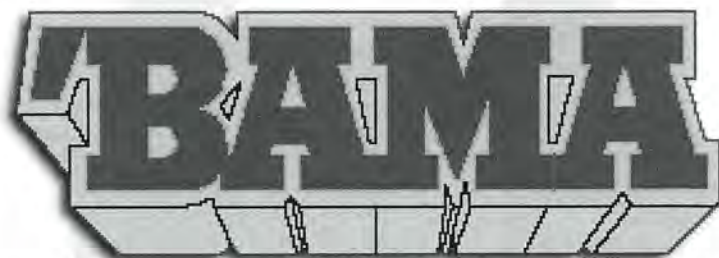
CONCENTRICS.COM

\*

<http://concentrics.com/bamamag/>

AUDIO  
VIDEO  
CHAT LINE  
MULTIMEDIA  
DOOR PRIZES

1-800-713-2261



INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

ONLINE

UPDATED DAILY

"the best source anywhere  
for Alabama athletics"



# Alabama Football Schedules

Although there has been some vagueness to Alabama's future football schedules, in June Interim Athletics Director Glen Tuckett confirmed that Alabama has future intersectional games planned with Brigham Young (where Tuckett was athletics director before retiring) and Baylor and that there are on-going discussions with Hawaii. Additionally, a senior athletics administrator said that Alabama will have a two-game series with UCLA early in the next century.

Ironically, one man who didn't get the athletics director's job—Mal Moore—said in his interview with the selection committee that he thought one of the best things Paul Bryant had done as athletics director and head football coach was have a number of intersectional games. The school of thought for the past couple of athletics administrations has been to have comparatively weak non-conference opponents, teams like Southern Miss and the various Louisiana schools and even the likes of Chattanooga. This means the games are home games and big payoffs for Alabama. However, it is Moore's belief that intersectional games against name opponents are worth the cost of the home-and-away schedule necessary to attract the likes of a Penn State or a UCLA. Such games are just about guaranteed to be televised games, they increase ticket interest in the years in which such teams are home games, and as road games they provide something of a cultural experience for the players, most of whom have never been out of the Southeast.

The addition of UCLA would have the bonus of allowing Alabama football players to do something no Tiders have done since the 1940s: Play in the Rose Bowl. UCLA plays its home games in Pasadena in the stadium on which much of Alabama's storied tradition was built.

A game against Hawaii doesn't add much to the strength of schedule, but it's a great trip for the players, coaches and fans. Additionally, an away game at Hawaii doesn't count against the number of regular season games a team can play. Thus, if Alabama plays at Hawaii, it would be possible for the Tide to play 14 games in a year if Bama made the SEC Championship Game and a bowl game.

## 1996 Schedule

| Date         | Opponent              | Time (TV)   | Site        |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| August 31    | Bowling Green         | 2:00        | Birmingham  |
| September 7  | Southern Mississippi  | 11:30 (J-P) | Birmingham  |
| September 14 | Vanderbilt            | TBA         | Tuscaloosa  |
| September 21 | Arkansas              | 11:30 (J-P) | Little Rock |
| October 5    | Kentucky (Homecoming) | 1:00        | Tuscaloosa  |
| October 12   | North Carolina State  | 2:30 (ABC)  | Raleigh     |
| October 19   | Mississippi           | 1:00        | Tuscaloosa  |
| October 26   | Tennessee             | 2:30 (CBS)  | Knoxville   |
| November 9   | LSU                   | TBA         | Baton Rouge |
| November 16  | Mississippi State     | 11:30 (J-P) | Starkville  |
| November 23  | Auburn                | 6:30 (ESPN) | Birmingham  |

### SEC Championship Game

|            |     |            |         |
|------------|-----|------------|---------|
| December 7 | TBA | 7:00 (ABC) | Atlanta |
|------------|-----|------------|---------|

## 1997 Schedule

There has already been one change in the previously-announced 1997 Alabama football schedule. The Louisiana Tech game, originally scheduled for September 27, is now November 1.

| Date         | (Tentative)<br>Opponent |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| August 30    | Houston                 |
| September 6  | Southern Miss           |
| September 13 | @ Vanderbilt            |
| September 20 | Arkansas                |
| October 4    | @ Kentucky              |
| October 18   | Tennessee               |
| October 25   | @ Mississippi           |
| November 1   | Louisiana Tech          |
| November 8   | LSU                     |
| November 15  | Mississippi State       |
| November 22  | @ Auburn                |

### SEC Championship Game

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| December 6 | TBA @ Atlanta |
|------------|---------------|

## 1998 Schedule

This has not been officially announced by Alabama, but some outlets have reported this and it appears accurate. Additionally, Alabama's 1999 non-conference opponents have been reported as being Houston, Louisiana Tech and Southern Miss. Alabama's 1999 SEC opponents will be the same as in 1998.

| Date         | (Tentative)<br>Opponent |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| September 5  | Brigham Young           |
| September 12 | Vanderbilt              |
| September 19 | @ Arkansas              |
| September 26 | East Carolina           |
| October 3    | Florida                 |
| October 17   | Mississippi             |
| October 24   | @ Tennessee             |
| October 31   | Southern Miss           |
| November 7   | @ LSU                   |
| November 14  | @ Mississippi State     |
| November 21  | Auburn                  |

Bryant regularly noted that an important part of every football season was "schedule luck and injury luck." It's impossible to know about those items until the season gets under way, but one thing is sure: the SEC schedule-makers didn't do Bama any favors. The SEC schedule gives four Alabama opponents—Arkansas, LSU, Ole Miss and Tennessee—an open date before they play the Crimson Tide. Bama has open dates before its games against Kentucky and LSU.

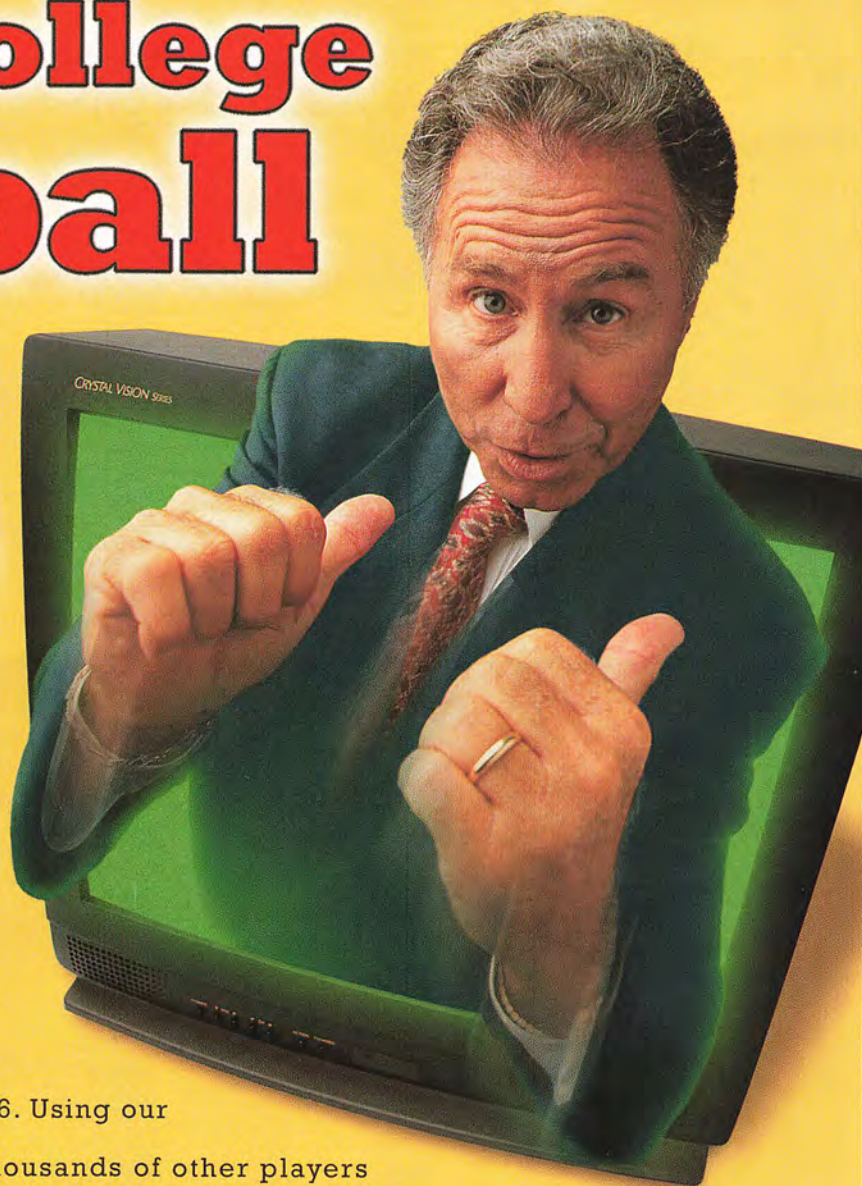
Early information is that six Crimson Tide games are already scheduled for television this fall. The Alabama-North Carolina State game at Raleigh on October 12 is tentatively scheduled as a regional telecast by ABC, the October 26 game at Tennessee a national game by CBS and the Alabama-Auburn game from Birmingham a 6:30 p.m. (CST) national telecast by ESPN. Additionally, Alabama's games with Southern Miss on September 7, Arkansas on September 21 and Mississippi State on November 16 are expected to be regionally-telecast as the SEC Game of the Week by Jefferson Pilot. Other Tide games could be selected for television later in the year. There was an unconfirmed report that ESPN planned to examine the possibility of putting temporary lights in Bryant-Denny Stadium, presumably to televise either the Vanderbilt or Ole Miss games. (Lights were removed from the East side of the stadium in pre-construction work, the reason all Tuscaloosa games are scheduled for 1 p.m.) It would be unlikely that Alabama would move the Kentucky game to night because that is homecoming.

Those games not picked up by a network will be available to cable viewers in Alabama and to satellite dish receivers on a pay-per-view basis. The SEC Championship Game in Atlanta will be at 7 p.m. CST, a national telecast by ABC.

—Kirk McNair



# So, you think you know college football better than Lee Corso?



OK, here's your chance to prove it.

Play Fantasy Cup College Football '96. Using our simple rating system, you, Lee and thousands of other players will build teams position by position. And if you do really well, you'll win our \$10,000 Grand Prize. Plus weekly cash prizes. Plus serious bragging rights. The 11-week season begins September 14 and costs just \$99.95—less than \$10 a week. So sign up and win big bucks. Impress your friends. And please, beat Lee. It'll help us in next year's contract talks.

[ <http://www.fantasycup.com> ]

**\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE**

Two Fantasy Conferences Available:  
S.E.C. or Big Ten *plus* Notre Dame

Call: 1-800-877-7223

(Ask for Department A)

Not affiliated with the Southeastern Conference, the Big Ten, Notre Dame University or the NCAA. Void where prohibited. No purchase necessary. Entrants must be at least 18 to play. © Fantasy Sports Enterprises.





# Bama Gets New Athletics Director

by Kirk McNair

Former Texas Tech AD  
has impressive credentials

The past couple of months have been an extraordinarily emotional time for Robert Bockrath and his family. Bockrath is the new athletics director at Alabama, replacing Hootie Ingram who resigned last fall following Alabama's problems with the NCAA. Speculation over whom new Alabama President Dr. Andrew Sorenson might select did not include Bockrath, somewhat extraordinary considering the number of names which arose during the search period.

Soon after the appointment was announced on June 7, one professional occurrence and one personal event contributed to Bockrath's

delay in moving into his office in Tuscaloosa. Nevertheless, Bockrath continued to spend time on his new commitment and was expected to be on the job full-time by August.

The professional problem was primarily one of media misinformation. There was considerable discussion of Bockrath leaving Texas Tech just as that program is coming under NCAA scrutiny. However, Bockrath was not at Texas Tech when the alleged violations took place and he had already accepted the Alabama job before those allegations came to light. He does not come to Alabama with NCAA baggage. Nevertheless, that situation almost certainly played a part in Bockrath's delay in moving to Alabama.

The personal situation is a terrible one, although medical technology could provide a happy ending. Bockrath's 23-year-old son, an avid competitive bicycle rider, was stricken in Lubbock, Texas, in late June with what was originally diagnosed as heat stroke. However, further examination revealed he had suffered a massive heart attack, perhaps linked to a con-

genital condition and almost certainly not fatal only because his son is in excellent physical condition. The young Bockrath was sent by air ambulance to Houston where his condition was stabilized, but where he is listed as a candidate for a heart transplant. Naturally, Bockrath and his wife have devoted much of their time to being in Houston. Meanwhile Glen Tuckett, who has served as Alabama's interim athletics director since the resignation of Ingram, has agreed to stay on through the transition period and Tuckett, along with other Alabama administrative staffers, are conducting business and communicating with Bockrath on a regular basis. Bockrath has met with current Alabama staffers and indicated that he would like to keep everyone on board. Obviously, as he becomes acquainted with the job and with current personnel, it would be expected that changes would be forthcoming.

In announcing Bockrath's appointment, Dr. Sorenson issued a statement: "In our search for an athletics director, experience, integrity and an intimate familiarity with the combination



New Alabama Athletics Director Robert Bockrath was introduced on June 7. Among those interviewing him were former Alabama quarterback Scott Hunter, now a Mobile sportscaster. Barry Fikes Photo



of academic and athletic success were imperative. We wanted a seasoned athletics administrator who could take one of the nation's premier athletics programs to the next level. I am confident Robert Bockrath is the right person for the job."

After naming a selection committee to provide him with three finalists for the position of director of athletics, Dr. Sorenson surprised most with the selection of Bockrath. Early speculation centered on the likes of Southern Conference Commissioner Wright Waters, Florida State Athletics Director Dave Hart, Southeastern Conference Executive Associate Commissioner Mark Womack, and Alabama Associate Athletics Director Mal Moore, all alumni of The University. Waters, Hart and Womack were quickly eliminated, or, more accurately it seems, quickly eliminated themselves as not being interested in the post.

The finalists in addition to Bockrath were Bill Carr, currently athletics director at Houston and former athletics director at Florida (though not at the same time as Sorenson, who came to Alabama from the number two administrative position, Provost, at the University of Florida) and Mal Moore, longtime assistant coach of the Tide before beginning administrative duties a little over a year and a half ago.

An oddity of the selection of Bockrath is that virtually every source close to the selection committee has reported that Moore was far and away the most knowledgeable and most impressive candidate interviewed by the committee. Moore was assured that his selection as one of the three finalists was not just to placate Alabama fans (who indicated by a huge margin to the committee that Moore was their choice). Nevertheless, Moore went to Gainesville on June 3 for an evening interview with Sorenson. Upon his return he learned that Spike Dykes, the head football coach at Texas Tech, had called Bama Assistant Coach Ivy Williams (who came to Alabama from Dykes' Texas Tech staff) to tell him that Bockrath was Alabama's new athletics director. Williams got that call before Moore left

Tuscaloosa to go to Gainesville. It has to be considered a possibility that Sorenson had no intention of selecting anyone with an Alabama background for the post. That possible philosophy has nothing to do with the current relationship of Bockrath and Moore. Bockrath has taken pains to note his hope that Moore will stay on board. (In truth, it was a bit of a stretch to have Moore as a finalist based on the criteria that included seven years of athletics administrative experience.)

Bockrath has more than 16 years experience as an athletics administrator at three Division I schools. He was director of athletics at Texas Tech from 1993 until his appointment at Alabama. Before that he was director of intercollegiate athletics and recreational sports at California-Berkeley (1991-93) and at Arizona from 1980 through 1991 he was associate athletics director and later senior associate athletics director. He began his career as a football coach. After playing for Bo Schembechler at Miami of Ohio, he was a coach under Schembechler while earning a master's degree. He later coached in high school and was an assistant at Arizona (1972-76) and Purdue (1976-80), where he was offensive coordinator.

There is no question that Texas Tech enjoyed unprecedented athletics success in Bockrath's short tenure there, but for the most part the coaches were in place. Still, Texas Tech won or shared six championships in the now-defunct Southwest Conference and the Red Raiders were nationally ranked in football, baseball and men's and women's basketball. There was considerable upgrading of facilities at Texas Tech, a chore that has mostly been taken care of for Bockrath at Alabama, although he will oversee the final work on expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium. Bockrath also added women's sports at Texas Tech, an on-going process for virtually every Division I program.

Additionally, a subject that almost never arose in connection with Alabama until early 1993, is now prominent: NCAA compliance. Bockrath has an excellent background and reputation in this area. He also has an impres-

sive line on his resume regarding student-athlete graduation rates, although that was built primarily at Cal-Berkeley, one of the nation's top academic institutions.

At first glance, Bockrath's strength appears to be fund-raising and promotions and his weakness hiring coaches. Ironically, budget is not a big problem at Alabama, but in the near future it is going to be critical that Bockrath make a key personnel decision. No one (probably not even Gene Stallings) knows when Gene Stallings is going to retire to his Texas ranch, but when he does it will be imperative that Alabama put the right man in place as Bama's head football coach.

Some questioned that Stallings was not a member of the selection committee. However, far more odd than that is that Stallings was not told of the selection of Bockrath until a general meeting of all athletics department personnel at which Bockrath was introduced.

Ironically, Bockrath's first crisis could have come in what would rank very close to Alabama's least-followed sport. There was an uprising of sorts among members of Coach Dorothy Franco-Reed's women's volleyball team in the spring. Interim Athletics Director Glen Tuckett suspended Franco-Reed briefly, then reinstated her. At least one top player left the team. Rumors persisted around the athletics department that a number of players intended to show up for the first day of classes, then quit the team. That would allow them to remain on scholarship, but Alabama would have no players. That situation was presumably averted when Franco-Reed resigned at the end of June. Now Bockrath's first coaching appointment will be a new women's volleyball coach.

Although promotion of sports at Alabama has been relegated to near non-status in the past ("Winning will take care of it," has been the attitude of previous athletics directors), much of the success in Alabama's baseball and gymnastics programs is the result of promotion. With the exception of football, all Alabama sports (and particularly men's basketball, which has the potential for producing significant revenue) could benefit from a promotions-conscious athletics director.

## 1996 UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| Date     | Opponent           | Site        |
|----------|--------------------|-------------|
| Aug. 31  | Bowling Green      | Birmingham  |
| Sept. 7  | Southern Miss      | Birmingham  |
| Sept. 14 | Vanderbilt         | Tuscaloosa  |
| Sept. 21 | Arkansas           | Little Rock |
| Oct. 5   | Kentucky           | Tuscaloosa  |
| Oct. 12  | North Carolina St. | Raleigh     |
| Oct. 19  | Mississippi        | Tuscaloosa  |
| Oct. 26  | Tennessee          | Knoxville   |
| Nov. 9   | LSU                | Baton Rouge |
| Nov. 16  | Mississippi St.    | Starkville  |
| Nov. 23  | Auburn             | Birmingham  |
| Dec. 7   | SEC Championship   | Atlanta     |

## Don't Let Game Day Catch You At Home Go Places With The Tide

**Going Places Travel** is pleased to offer its ninth edition of "Going Places With the Tide" travel packages. This year's team has post-season and championship aspirations, so you won't want to miss a single play. In addition to the packages for Bama's road games, **Going Places Travel** will once again offer its very affordable home game packages. Don't let game day catch you at home - *Go Places With the Tide*.



**Going Places**  
Travel Agency, Inc.

**205 424-9694**  
**1-800-239-2072**



# Junior College Transfer Getting Ready

by Donald F. Staffo

Former JC All-America could play tackle, but is projected defensive end

With the defensive line depleted by the departure of Shannon Brown, Elverett Brown, Matt Parker and Van Boddien, Alabama was looking for instant help to shore up that area. So they went out and got a moose.

Junior college transfer Michael Myers, called "Moose" by his high school chums, appears ready to step in and provide immediate support at defensive end or, if needed, at defensive tackle.

Myers, 6-3 and 270 pounds, was a two-time All-America while playing for Hinds Junior college in Raymond, Mississippi. Last year he was credited with 66 tackles including eight sacks, while causing five fumbles and recovering three in helping Hinds (10-2) to the Texas Shrine Bowl. As a freshman he made 46 tackles, including 20 sacks as Hinds went 11-2. Prior to that Myers was a first team all-state and first team all-region selection at Vicksburg (Mississippi) High School.

Myers was not recruited by Alabama out of high school. He signed with Ole Miss after considering overtures from Auburn, Houston and Southern Mississippi. He came up one point short on the ACT test and thus opted to go the junior college route rather than join the Rebels and have to sit out a year.

After two stellar years at Hinds and an improved academic standing, Alabama joined Mississippi and most of the Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference schools who were now interested in Myers' services. The Crimson Tide won out primarily because of its defensive reputation and because Bama employed a defensive scheme similar to that used at Hinds.

Myers, who bench presses 355 pounds, squats 475 and runs a 4.75 40-yard dash, said he was swayed toward Tuscaloosa because "Alabama is known for its defense, and they have a good coaching staff."

Alabama Defensive Coordinator and Defensive Line Coach Mike Dubose believes Myers can immediately fill some voids left by graduation. "Our philosophy is that if a junior college player can't make an impact on our program, then we'd be better off going after a high school player who has five years to play four," said Dubose, who obviously felt Myers was ready for SEC-caliber competition.

Myers was recruited as a defensive end but, due to an injury to Eric Kerley, spent much of spring practice working at tackle. With his speed and quickness, Dubose feels

that if needed Myers can compete with Kelvin Moore at the "Three Technique" tackle position in the Crimson Tide's scheme of things. Ozell Powell and Kerley are battling for the "Shade Tackle" spot. Myers explained that the basic difference between the two is that Three Technique is really one-on-one play whereas Shade is mostly double-team.

Dubose, however, said that heading into fall practice the plan is to use Myers at end. "We recruited Michael as a defensive end and we had every intention of playing him at defensive end, but in the spring we felt we needed help at 'Three Technique.'"

"But Michael will be listed as a defensive end and we anticipate playing him primarily at defensive end in the fall, though we'll probably rotate him some. He's a little bit better at defensive end than he is at defensive tackle, but that's because that's all he's ever played. He'll play defensive end at the next level."

That pleases Myers, who prefers end. "That's me. That's where I've played right along," he said.

At left defensive end he'll play behind Chris Hood. At right defensive end he'll back up Darrell Blackburn, mostly in running situations, Dubose said.

Dubose feels Myers benefited significantly from having had the opportunity to participate in spring drills. "We got him acclimated. He had a chance to learn the terminology, the system, my expectations and the speed of the game, and that has made him a little bit better," Dubose said. "He's a little older and more mature, so we're treating him like a junior. We've got to get him ready to play, and play quickly."

For a guy his size, Dubose said he likes Myers' speed, quickness and natural strength. "Michael has a lot of natural strength, if not weight room strength," said Dubose. "That natural strength allows him to do some things that you wouldn't think he would be able to do."

"I think he's a little bit like John Copeland, though not all the time. During spring practice you'll see flashes of it, but he's not consistent yet."

"My big concern is not the physical part. It's trying to get Michael to relax and let himself go. He didn't do that in the spring because he wasn't comfortable with everything. He's got to understand that he's going to make mistakes, but he can't let those mistakes interfere with his concentration and effort."

Dubose said Myers still has some things to learn. "Right now he's a straight line guy, but football is a game of angles and reaction. Michael has got to learn the angles. He also has to work on his vision and learn to use his eyes. Things happen a little quicker at this level than they do at the junior college

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/AUGUST '96

www.sportsblitz.com

**sportsBlitz!**  
ONLINE

IT'S FREE!

Use your computer for FREE access to all the inside sports information you crave on SportsBLITZ! Online, including:

● **ALABAMA FOOTBALL:** exclusive coverage of Alabama, Auburn, UAB, SEC, Top 25, and the NFL. Game previews and picks, player news & injury reports, statistics, game recaps, Vegas odds, recruiting news, SEC standings & Players of the Week, national polls, discussion groups & more.

● **Daily Sports News** from a nationwide network of reporters covering all major sports events: basketball, baseball, golf, NASCAR, hockey, '96 Olympics, tennis, boxing, & more.

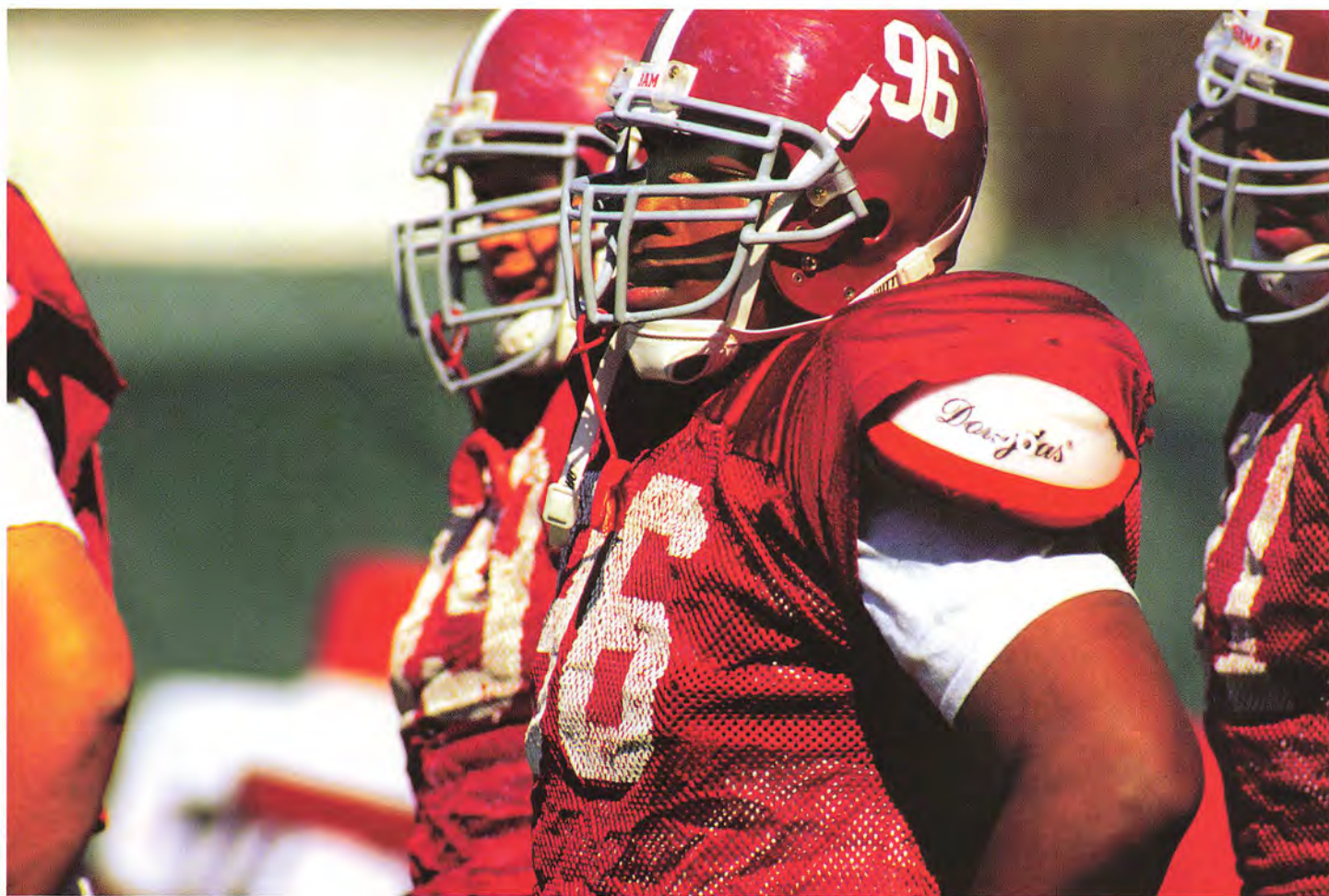
Visit us on the Web at <http://www.sportsblitz.com> today!

No Internet access? No problem! You can access SportBLITZ! Online directly -- all you need is a Windows computer and a modem.

For FREE software and more information, call:

**205-497-8727**





It was advantageous for Michael Myers to take part in spring training after transferring from junior college, but the projected defensive end had to spend most of his time in the spring at tackle because of a lack of depth at tackle. Barry Fikes Photo

level. The game is going to get a little faster for him."

To that assessment Myers adds: "I think my strengths are beating the other person off the ball and getting up the field. I think the area that I need to improve in the most is pass rush technique."

Myers, a business management major, said that practices at Alabama so far were not really much different than what he experienced at Hinds Junior College. "They're about the same," he said. "The competition here is a little bit better, but there were some good players in junior college, too."

And though he'll now play before some crowds in the 70-90,000 range compared to the 5,000 spectators he's been accustomed to, Myers said he won't be intimidated by the fans or the noise. "It will be the same intensity on the field," he said. "That won't bother me. I'm not worried about that at all. I'm looking forward to it."

With only two years to show his stuff at the Division I level, Myers has set a few goals for himself. "I want to get in double figures in sacks, make first team All-SEC, and help Alabama win the National Championship," he said.

The official "Bama" shirt offered in white Oxford cloth, blue chambray or Tartan plaid.

Sizes M, L, XL

55.<sup>00</sup> solids

60.<sup>00</sup> plaid

Call toll free



*the Locker Room*

1-800-749-0992

1218 University Boulevard  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401



Calvin Hall:

## He's Battling For First Team At Split End

by Kirk McNair

Soph has been redshirted and injured, but should get much playing time in '96

Thus far in his Alabama football career, Calvin Hall has earned more television time as a spectator at the College World Series than he has as a member of the Crimson Tide. The wide receiver has yet to catch his first pass in a Bama game because he has spent about as much time in the training room as he has on the practice field. Nevertheless, there is no truth to the rumor that there is a suspicion he could graduate before he makes his initial reception.

In every analysis of Alabama's 1996 football team, it is pointed out that Alabama lost its top three wide receivers from 1995. Toderick Malone, Curtis Brown and Chad Key caught 97 passes last year. The returning wide receivers caught 12, Marcell West taking 11 of those, walk-on Chad Goss catching one on a trick play from punt formation. West is the firm leader at flanker, backed by Goss and Michael Feagin.

However, there is a battle at split end with sophomores Hall and Michael Vaughn and redshirt freshman Shamari Buchanan having come out of spring training neck-and-neck.

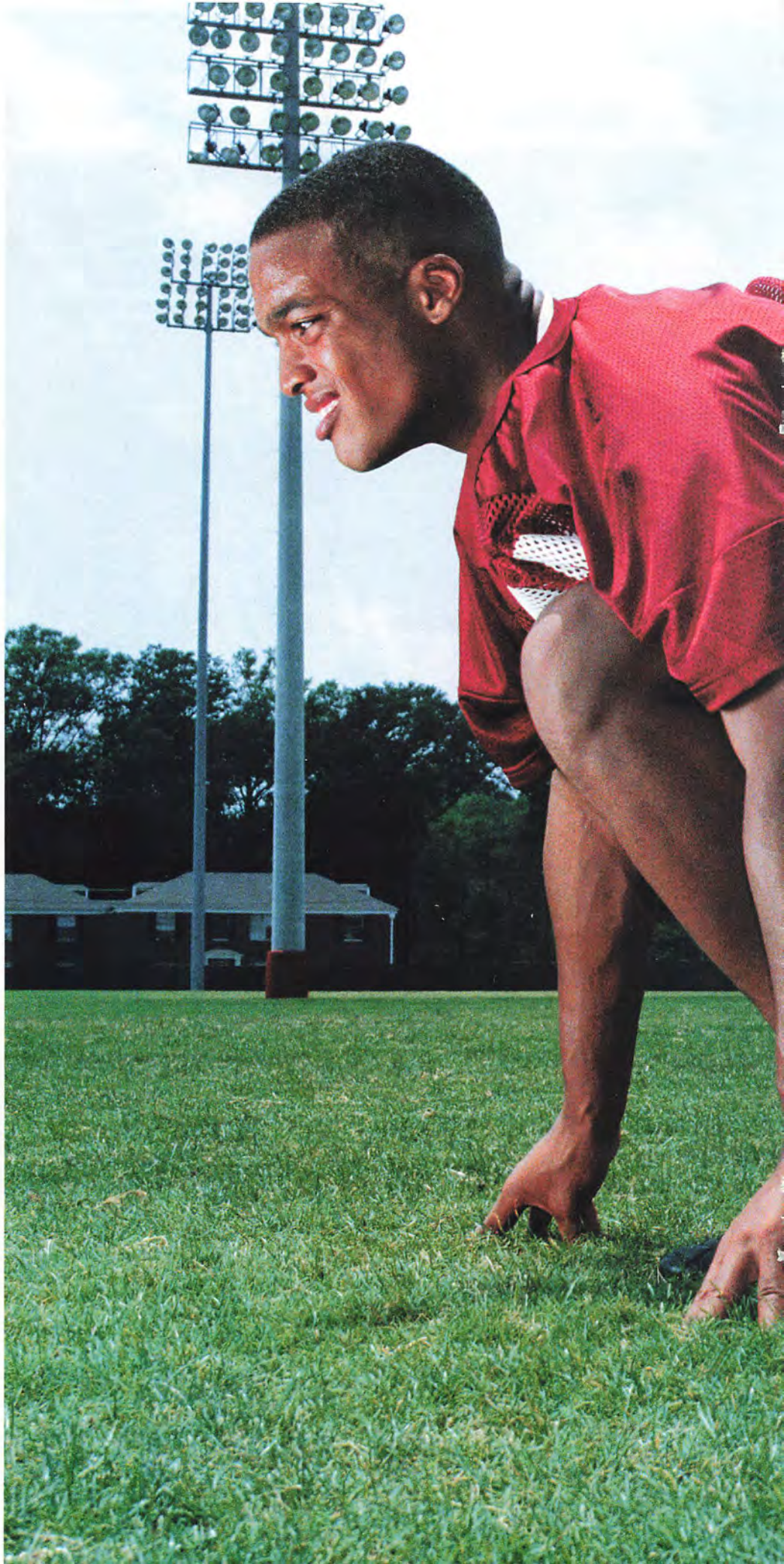
The flanker and split end positions are not exactly the same, but are somewhat interchangeable and it could be Vaughn could be switched over to flanker, as he was through much of the spring. But as of now, the three youngsters are the split end candidates. "It's great competition," Hall said. "I thrive on competition, and so do they. It makes it intense; it makes it interesting. And we've all got a lot of years left."

Hall's lack of playing time thus far has been because of depth in front of him and because of injuries. As a freshman in 1994 Hall watched as the more experienced group of Brown, Malone, Key and West handled virtually all of Alabama's wide receiver chores. "I wasn't ready," Hall said of sitting out his first year.

In the spring of his freshman year he suf-

Although sophomore wide receiver Calvin Hall admits that he doesn't have blazing speed, he thinks that he has other qualities as a wide receiver that compensate.

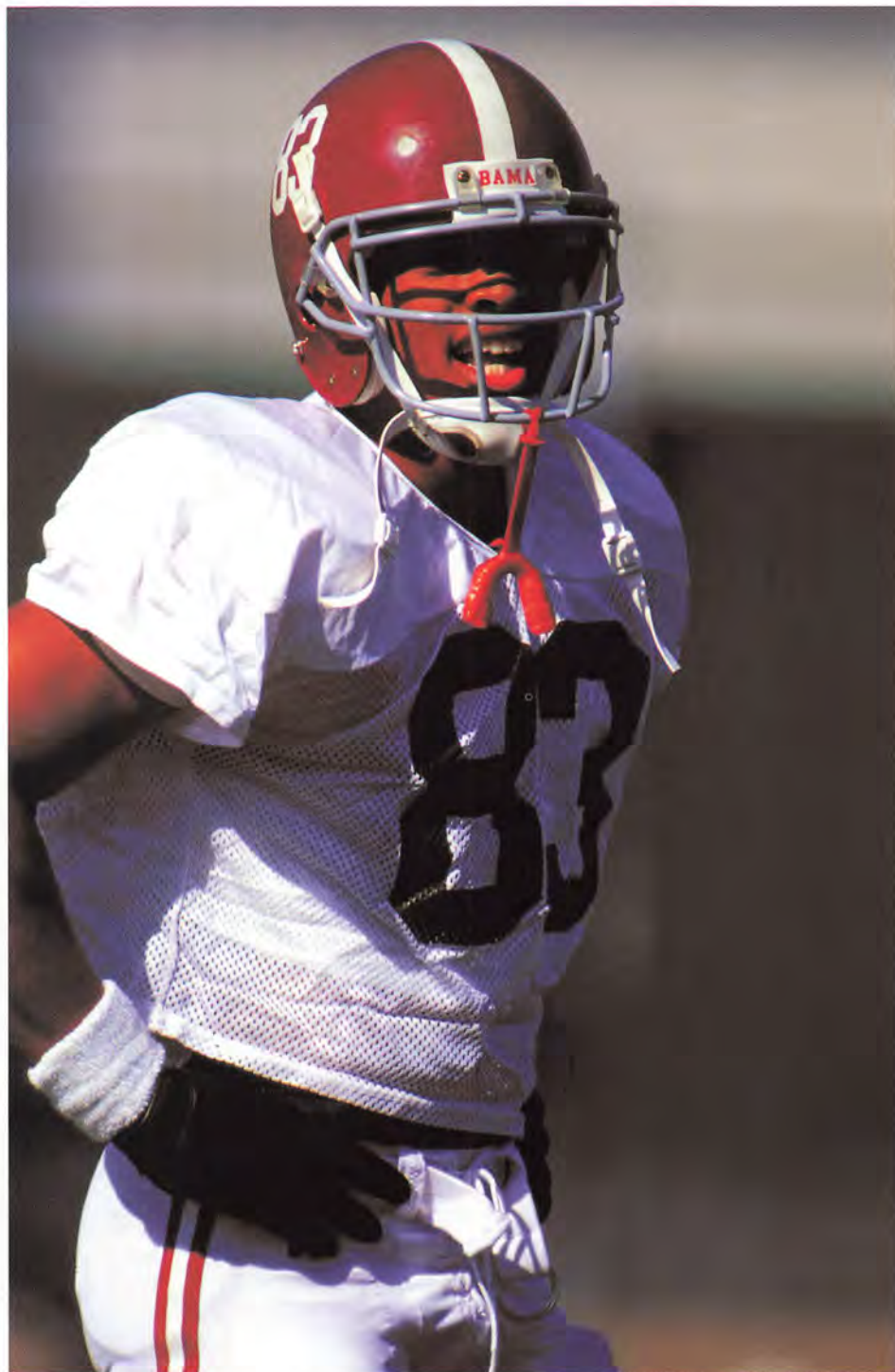
Barry Fikes Photo











Calvin Hall is a physical split end who goes after the football with a vengeance. He believes that every pass thrown to him should be caught by him. However, he's still waiting to catch his first pass in an Alabama game.

Barry Fikes Photo

ferred a fracture in his foot on the first day of practice. That required surgery and kept him out for the remainder of the spring. Last fall, as he battled for playing time behind the same veteran group of wide receivers, he played in four games before the foot gave out again. It was a break in the same spot and more surgery was required. "I tried to keep going after the break, but it just got

worse so I finally had to go to the doctor with it," Hall said. And so, in two full seasons, Hall has participated in just 35 game plays. And, as he pointed out, "I'm still waiting to catch my first pass."

Hall said his lack of playing time in his first two years sometimes discouraged and frustrated him. But, he said, "I think it made me a better person. You're supposed to be

humble and you're supposed to be able to face reality, and my first two years did that for me."

This past spring Hall went through the workouts with no foot problems and he is 100 per cent going into fall practice. Additionally, the spring performance of Hall and his fellow wide receivers has Bama coaches believing the positions will not only not be a weakness, but that they will be an offensive strength.

At the end of spring training, Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings said, "Obviously we lost three really productive football players and we have to have some of the younger players to step forth and be contributors. Our receivers have done a good job of catching the ball, but my concern is our lack of experience."

**H**all isn't making any rash promises about himself or his fellow wide receivers. "We'll have to wait and see," he said. "We believe we're going to hold our own, but we're going to let our actions on the field do the talking."

Hall doesn't even know where he ranks. Some observers considered him number one, but a pre-season depth chart issued by Alabama's sports information office had him number two, behind Vaughn. "I hope I'm number one, but I don't know," Hall said. "It's the coaches' job to decide that. It's my job to do the best I can."

Unlike most players, Hall said he doesn't make personal goals before the season. "It's good to have expectations, but I don't want to limit myself," he said. "I want to be the best football player I can be, and that might be more than I would aim for if I set goals."

Hall said that Alabama's run-oriented offense is good for a wide receiver, although he admitted "I had to have the coaches explain that to me." He said, "A wide receiver wants to have a chance to catch the football. If the running game is going well, that means the defensive backs have to be conscious of the run and it means that we are going to get more man-to-man coverage and have an opportunity to get free of the defense to get downfield. It's important for a wide receiver to be able to get off the line of scrimmage as clean as possible so he can run his route. If he gets knocked off his route, it will throw the timing off and the quarterback will be stuck back there. If you'll notice, you'll see that teams that can run the ball can usually pass very successfully. And I think if we can run it, we will win most of the time."

Hall and the other wide receivers underwent a coaching change in the spring, one that pleases Hall. Woody McCorvey, who had coached the wideouts, took over as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Dabo Swinney, a former graduate assistant coach, was elevated to receivers coach.

"That went well," Hall said. "Coach Swinney brings a lot of enthusiasm to the staff because he's young. It wasn't that long



ago he was out there, so he knows what we're going through. And with Coach McCorvey going to offensive coordinator, that means we won't have drastic changes. It was a good transition."

Hall, 6-2, 195, believes that his strong point as a wide receiver is "being physical and being able to jump. That's my game. When the quarterback throws me the ball, I believe it's mine no matter where it is." He also believes "I can improve in all areas. I can't just pinpoint one. Some players are blessed with blazing speed. I don't have that. But I think I have other parts of the game that compensate. And I think I'm fast enough to get the job done."

**I**n addition to the thrill of going through spring practice injury-free and performing well, Hall had another pleasure: watching the Alabama baseball team and his brother, Doug, win a school record 50 games and reach the College World Series. Doug, who is 21 and almost exactly a year older than Calvin, had a key home run as Alabama defeated Florida en route to the Southeastern Conference Tournament championship, earning Doug All-Tournament honors. "I went to all the games I could, including the SEC Tournament, the NCAA

Regional here and the College World Series," he said. Television coverage found Calvin in the stands watching his brother in Omaha.

Although Calvin was at Alabama when Doug was recruited from junior college, Calvin said he didn't influence his brother. "I'm glad he came, but he made his own decision," Calvin said. Doug is now playing professionally after having been drafted after his junior season by the Chicago Cubs in the sixth round of this summer's Major League Draft.

Calvin had a long list of college suitors when he finished his prep career under Coach Calvin Short at Gallatin High School in Tennessee. Hall earned all-state after starting for three years at wide receiver and defensive end. He finished his prep career with 79 receptions for 1,659 yards. As a senior he missed some playing time with an ankle injury, but still had 19 receptions for 327 yards and two touchdowns.

Hall made official visits to Vanderbilt (about 30 minutes from his home and his favorite team when he was growing up), Notre Dame, Purdue and Alabama before deciding to end the recruiting process. "I was trying to play basketball and it was distracting to be dealing with the recruiters, so I commit-

ted to Alabama," he said. Hall said he picked Alabama because "It was close to home if I needed to get home, but not so close to home where I'd be tempted to go all the time. And, of course, the tradition of Alabama football. We had a great tradition at Gallatin, too, and that was important to me. And Alabama had what I wanted academically."

Hall was an excellent student in high school and has continued to do well at Alabama. In fact, after going to both terms of summer school this year, he needs just 48 hours—about three semesters at his current rate—to graduate, and he has three years of football eligibility remaining. "I could slack off a little, I guess, but that's not my plan," the marketing major said. He plans to add another major or, perhaps, enter graduate school after earning his degree.

In addition to school, Hall spent the summer working out, primarily in the weight room and running in the first semester, then running routes and catching passes from the quarterbacks prior to the start of practice.

Hall believes "The sky's the limit" for the 1996 Alabama football team. "Everyone's worked hard to be in good shape and everyone's on the same page. But we've got to take the games one at a time."

# Roll Tide



## FOUR GREAT ACTION MOMENTS

featuring the art of  
*Daniel A. Moore*

- "The Goal Line Stand"** - against Penn State in the 1979 Sugar Bowl.
- "The Sack"** - Bennett's famous sack in the 1986 victory over Notre Dame.
- "The Kick"** - Van Tiffin's 1985 game winning field goal against Auburn.
- "The Tradition Continues"** - commemorating the Sugar Bowl of 1992 and the Tide's National Championship under Coach of the Year, Gene Stallings.

## FREE with every Order

- FREE checkbook cover, check register, & deposit slips.
- FREE name & address labels.

## SPECIAL OFFER!

Buy your **Crimson Tide®** checks\*, together with pen and leather checkbook cover for just **\$29.95**

\*200 single checks or 150 duplicate checks



LINDA K. FRANKLIN  
NEAL B. FRANKLIN  
1234 MAIN STREET  
ANYTOWN, USA 12345

**ROLL TIDE!®**

#### How To Order:

1. **Enclose order form and voided check** from existing check supply, noting any changes.
2. **Include deposit slip** from existing check supply.
3. **Enclose your payment check.**
4. Fill out the order form and mail with items 1, 2 & 3 to:  
Designer Checks • P.O. Box 13386 • Birmingham, AL 35202



Call Today! 1-800-239-9222

E04TGGB6
**ORDER FORM**

Start my checks with number \_\_\_\_\_  
(if different from voided check)

☐ My day time phone# \_\_\_\_\_

**SINGLE CHECKS**

☐ 1 Box (200) \$9.95

☐ 2 Boxes (400) \$18.95

**DUPLICATE CHECKS**

☐ 1 Box (150) \$11.95

☐ 2 Boxes (300) \$22.95

☐ American Express   ☐ MasterCard   ☐ Visa

Expiration Date: Mo \_\_\_\_\_ Yr \_\_\_\_\_

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check that your credit card number has been filled completely.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Amount for checks                      | \$  |
| Leather Checkbook Cover \$14.95        | \$  |
| Roll Tide Pen \$9.95                   | \$  |
| Special Roll Tide Offer \$29.95        | \$  |
| In-plant rush (optional) \$2.50        | \$  |
| Script type (optional) add \$2         | \$  |
| Name & Address Labels                  | \$ <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">FREE</span> |
| Shipping and handling (\$1.00 per box) | \$  |
| Alabama residents add 8% sales tax     | \$  |
| <b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>                    | <b>\$</b>   |

**Designer** CHECKS

P.O. Box 13386 • Birmingham, AL 35202



# He's Worked Hard To Get To Bama

by Kirk McNair

Junior offensive guard had to overcome much to be an Alabama football player

**B**renon Meadows had to get over a handful of major humps, but he's finally succeeded in earning a football scholarship at Alabama. This fall he wants to earn a starting position. Based on his spring work, he's sure to get a lot of playing time as he prepares for his first real season at Bama.

It's something of a surprise that Meadows grew up an Alabama fan, somewhat stunning that he is in college and playing football at The University.

To begin with, Brenon's father, Charles, grew up an Alabama fan, but because of circumstances ended up an Auburn student. Nevertheless, Brenon said, "We strayed away from that. My father became an Alabama fan again, and so did I."

While that would be considered overcoming a major obstacle in most cases, the loyalty issue almost pales in comparison to other problems Meadows was faced with. As a youngster his legs were in corrective braces. Then he developed an eye disorder, which affected his ability to learn. In junior high school he was diagnosed as having a learning disorder. By the time he was a junior in high school the diagnosis was Attention Deficit Disorder.

Despite his learning handicap, Brenon took advantage of his school opportunity and was a successful student. He was outstanding in track and field, winning the state 6A championship in the discus. And he played football at Berry High School in Birmingham for the late Coach Bob Finley. (A teammate, practicing across the line from him, was current Bama defensive tackle Eric Kerley.)

If you don't remember seeing the name "Brenon Meadows" on the recruiting lists following his 1992 season, don't feel lonely. The experts didn't know about him, and not many college coaches had him on their lists, either. An exception was Howard Schnellenberger at Louisville. "Somehow I got listed as shorter and lighter than I was, something like 5-10, 205," Brenon said. "I was about 6-2, 255 in high school. Even at that, I was small for a tackle, which I played in high school. But Coach Schnellenberger found out I was 6-2 and when he looked at films he thought I could play guard or center. He also saw that I had been the long snapper in my junior year." Although Meadows received some recruiting interest from the likes of Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Auburn and Georgia, when signing day



Brenon Meadows is an upcoming junior offensive guard for Alabama who admits he sometimes feels like a freshman since he has never played for the Crimson Tide. However, he has experience and maturity and he is an excellent pass blocker. Barry Fikes Photo

came in February, 1993, he had only one firm offer: Louisville.

Meadows took advantage of that chance and quickly became a mainstay on the offensive line for the Cardinals. As a freshman in

1993 he was a regular, splitting time primarily as the number one back-up at center and at both guard positions, and he was the long snapper. As a sophomore he moved up to first team at right guard.

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/AUGUST '96



Meadows, who is now 6-2 and 280, would almost certainly be looking to his final season of college football had it not been for Schnellenberger being hired as head coach at Oklahoma. "If he was still there, I'd still be up there," Meadows said. "I was loyal to the man. But Louisville wouldn't release us to go to Oklahoma."

Meadows had heard rumors of Schnellenberger's leaving, but no one told the players. "I watched the news conference on television with some of my teammates," Meadows said. "When it was over, I called my mom and told her I was coming home. I had always wanted to go to Alabama, so I told her to call someone and find out what I had to do. Alabama couldn't talk because I hadn't been released."

Meadows said he was ready to leave immediately, but his father talked him into giving the new Louisville staff a chance. "He said to see if I liked it," Meadows said. "I went through spring training and I didn't like it. I quit that summer, but it was like they didn't believe me. I didn't get a release until a couple of weeks before school started here."

Meadows said that no one at Alabama promised him he'd get a scholarship if he transferred in, but he was promised an opportunity. "Before they'd even let me walk on they wanted to look at some tapes, so I sent them tapes of (Louisville) games against Boston College, Kentucky and North Carolina State. I guess they liked it. They told me to come on."

Meadows spent last fall on the scout team, primarily as a center working under Graduate Assistant Coach Willard Scissum.

Scout team work against the first offense with no prospect of playing on Saturdays isn't much fun, but Meadows had a good attitude. "I thought of it as a learning experience," he said. "I was going against some of the best defensive linemen in the country. I couldn't help but get better."

Meadows' hard work was rewarded in January when he was awarded one of Alabama's precious football scholarships.

In his college career, Meadows has played in the pro-set offense of Louisville, the offenses of all Alabama opponents last year, and is now learning the run-oriented Bama offense.

In the spring Meadows moved to left guard (although he took a few snaps at center). In 1995 Will Friend overtook Maurice Belser and finished the season as the starter at left guard. In the spring, Belser and Meadows were both considered first team. "It was sort of funny because we kept going back and forth," Meadows said. "Will and I would joke about who was the number one left guard that day."

Meadows had three primary reasons for staying in Tuscaloosa throughout the summer. One, he wanted to work on his academics. Although he has done well in college (including making the athletics director's academic honor roll with a 3.07 grade point average in his first semester at

Louisville), when he transferred to Alabama he lost some credits. He is determined to earn his degree in human performance and hopes one day to work with youth.

He also wanted to get into the best possible shape he could for upcoming August drills. Meadows is one who enjoys working in the weight room. "It's fun, a different kind of competition: you versus the weight," he said. He has never tested himself on a full maximum lift, but "I'll do 425 (bench press) at the end of a workout and close to 1100 on the leg press," he said.

Finally, the summer has given him time to study the Alabama playbook. "I was jumpy when spring training started," he said, "because I knew I was behind on knowing the plays. Coach Fuller told me to relax, not to think. You can't be thinking about the play; you've got to know it and then just do it. That's why I'm studying it so hard this summer."

Meadows said that "Sometimes I feel like a freshman, because I came in with the freshmen last year and was with most of them on the scout team. But then at other times I feel older because I've been at this for a few years now." Meadows is an upcoming junior with two years of eligibility remaining.

He's getting to know the run-blocking schemes better, but there is little doubt that his strength is as a pass blocker. "It's definitely more run-oriented here," Meadows

said. "Louisville was pass-oriented. About the only running plays were draws. Coach Schnellenberger took me up there and taught me everything I know, which is pass blocking. That's what I do is pass block. That's what they put in your head. It's second nature to me, and it's fun."

"I guess if I bring anything to the team it's being another experienced player. We're all pretty experienced now. I've got some maturity and I've learned some techniques. And probably pass blocking is a strength."

Meadows said, "Here, it's compete, compete, compete on every play. That's what we do and that's what it's all about: competition. I love it. Everybody here is good. I figure I've got to learn my plays, do what they teach me to do, and do well what I already know how to do."

And he thinks this will be a good Alabama football team. "Everyone has worked hard and pushed each other to work hard," he said. "We've got a chance to do something this year."

Meadows enjoys football and hopes to play after his Alabama career. "At this level, it's every player's dream to play pro ball," he said. "But I feel I was lucky to get a chance just to play in college."

Considering all that Brenon Meadows has had to overcome to earn a chance to play football for the Crimson Tide, luck would seem to have little to do with it. But it could prove lucky for Alabama.

## CARTBANK™

### 1:16 Scale Die Cast Collectible Bank

- All Decorations Painted (No Decals or Stickers) • Steerable Front Wheels
- Bank Coin Slot on Rear Deck of Cart
- Custom Packaging with
- School Logos
- Die Cast Frame and Body
- Clear Windshield
- Soft Seats
- Rubber Like Tires
- Coin Retrieval Door with Key

Only  
**\$22.95**

plus \$3.00 Shipping  
and Handling  
(Include Ga. Sales Tax  
if Applicable)

Call us or check with  
your College Bookstore  
or Gift Shop for the  
availability of other collegiate  
collectible CartBanks.

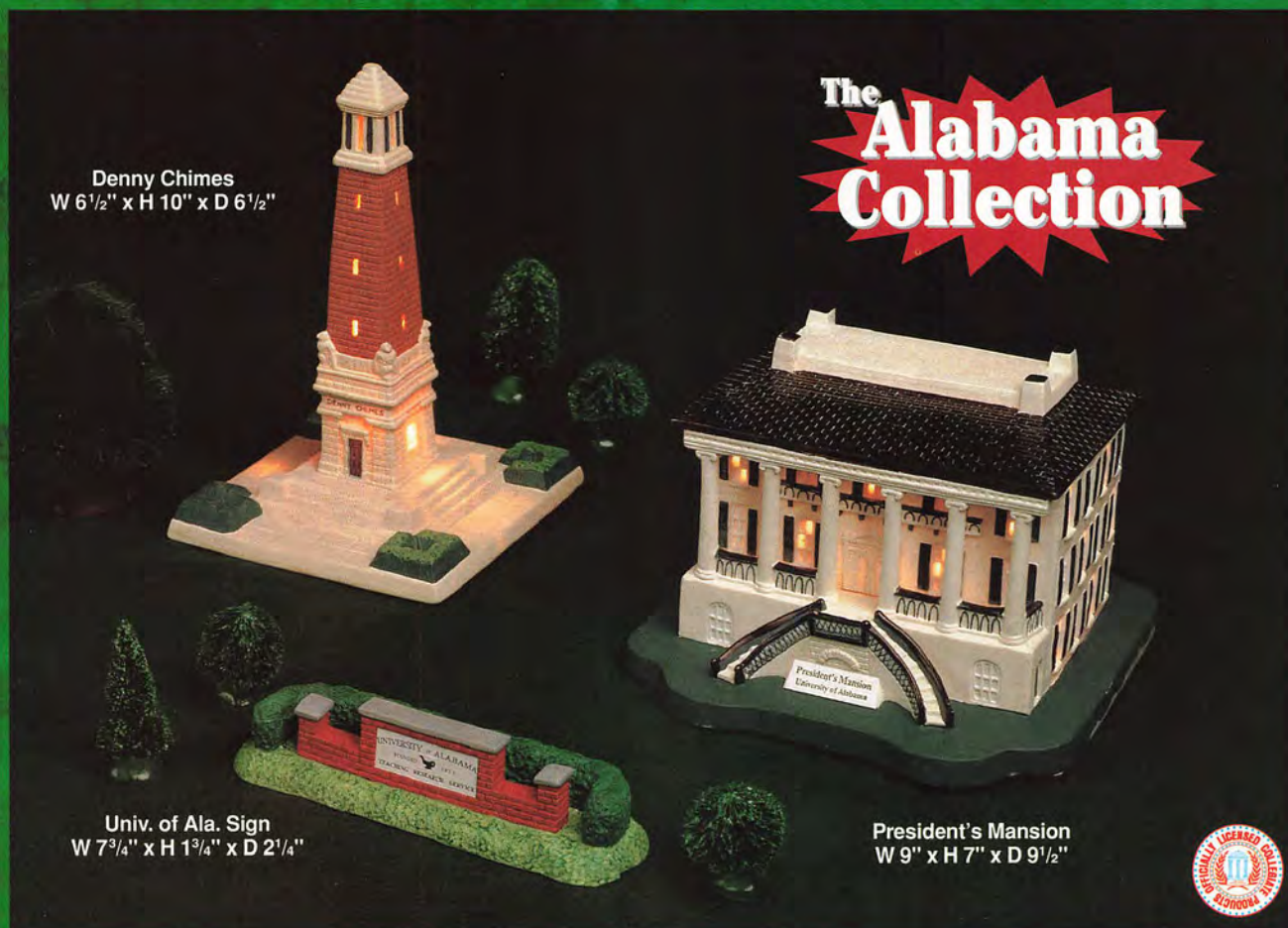
**100% Money Back Satisfaction Guaranteed...**  
GMP pays the cost to return and will issue  
full refund, no questions asked!

Send Check or Money Order to: **GMP / P.O. Box 571 / Winder, GA 30680**  
To Charge VISA/Master Card: 1-800-536-1637 or Fax: 404-867-0786





# COLLEGIATE COLLECTABLES PRESENTS...



Denny Chimes  
W 6 1/2" x H 10" x D 6 1/2"

Univ. of Ala. Sign  
W 7 3/4" x H 1 3/4" x D 2 1/4"

President's Mansion  
W 9" x H 7" x D 9 1/2"



**T**HE COLLEGIATE EXPERIENCE embodies much more than just a college education. It produces a personal relationship with and love for an institution that forever becomes a part of one's life.

Each Collegiate Collectable is meticulously designed and crafted with that lifetime collegiate pride in mind. Extreme care is given to insure high quality standards are met and to protect the value and collectability of each piece.

Each handpainted Collegiate Collectable, strictly limited in issue size, is individually numbered and hand-inspected for quality, workmanship and verification of production number assignment. Individual pieces are produced only during the year of issuance after which production is halted and the molds destroyed.

In addition, each Collegiate Collectable is officially licensed and authorized by the University of Alabama. Revenues generated by licensed products assist the university in carrying out its education mission through scholarships and academic programs.

©1995 Collegiate Collectables  
P.O. Drawer 360207 Birmingham, AL 35236

## 1995 Alabama Collection Release



The President's Mansion is Collegiate Collectable's 1995 release for the Alabama Collection. This building, built in 1841, was one of only four campus buildings to survive when Union troops raided the University in April 1865 and stands today as a symbol of the University's heritage. This piece is a perfect complement to Collegiate Collectable's 1994 initial Alabama Collection release, Denny Chimes. The issue size of the President's Mansion is strictly limited to 5000 pieces.

## Alabama Collection Accessory



University of Alabama Sign

## THE ALABAMA COLLECTION

### 1995 Release

The President's Mansion  
Issue Size: 5000 **\$69.95**

### 1994 Release

Denny Chimes  
Issue Size: 3000 **\$69.95**  
(limited number available)

### Alabama Collection Accessory

University of Alabama Sign **\$24.95**

To Order:  
**1-800-750-4567**  
Monday - Friday 8a.m.-5p.m. CT



Also available at selected retail outlets.



# Basketball Adds Top Prospects

by Stephen Craig

Men's and women's basketball rank among nation's best in recruiting

Depending upon which basketball recruiting "expert" you happen to check, the Alabama recruiting class of Coach David Hobbs ranks sixth, seventh or eighth in the nation. Although it's a long shot, there is still a possibility a final signee could be added. While the deadline for the spring signing period has passed, a player showing up for the start of classes can be added to scholarship. Hobbs' initial effort at landing a top European player ended in failure when the player elected to sign a professional contract with a European club team. However, while searching in Europe Hobbs found another possibility. If he shows up on August 19, when the fall semester begins, Alabama's team will be at full strength.

The pre-season roster issued by the Crimson Tide does not include Wade Kaiser, the frequently-injured big man who would have been eligible for a fifth season in 1996-97. However, Kaiser already has two degrees from Alabama and has elected to end his attempt at a playing career. That means the Tide currently has only 12 players scheduled to be on scholarship this year.

However, Bama won't lack for inside players, in great part because of the final signing of the spring, the one that pushed the Tide's



Demetrius Alexander

recruiting class to among the nation's elite. Demetrius Alexander is a 6-8, 235-pound forward from Hutchinson Junior College in Kansas. He averaged 19 points, 9.4 rebounds and shot 61 per cent from the field. He was selected co-Player of the Year in the conference and was an honorable mention junior college All-America selection. As a freshman at Hutchinson he averaged 10.2 points and 6.1 rebounds per game. An assistant coach at Hutchinson is former Alabama player Darby Rich.

Alexander is a native of St. Louis, Missouri, where he prepped at Hazlewood Central. As a senior he averaged 20.5 points, 10.8 rebounds and 4.6 blocks per game.

Alexander picked Alabama over Oklahoma State, TCU, Purdue and Illinois.

Alabama's other five signees had been announced previously. In the early signing period last fall Bama added Jeremy Hays, 6-9, of Boaz; Alfred Moss, 6-9, of Newnan, Georgia; and Ricky Poole, 6-8, of Otero Junior College in Colorado. In the spring, Alabama added point guard George Brown, 6-0, of the College of Southern Idaho and Donnie Johnson, 6-7, of Selma by way of Pearl River Community College in Mississippi.

As good as Hobbs' signing class appears to be, it is probably only the second best basketball recruiting job at Alabama. The Crimson Tide women's recruiting class has been ranked second only to Connecticut's.

Alabama Women's Basketball Coach Rick Moody has signed the National Junior College Player of the Year for the second consecutive year. She is Nartausha Mills of Trinity Valley. In the late signing period Bama also landed point guard Rebecca Baragry, a former member of the Australian Junior National team who has played the last two seasons for 1996 JUCO national runner-up, Independence Community College, and Westbrook Christian High School's Reagan Croyle.

The two join Alabama's Miss Basketball Nicole Carruth, and Northwest Community College's Latoya Caudle in Alabama's signing class.

"On paper this class certainly rates, in my opinion, as one of the top recruiting classes in the country, which is a compliment to the program and the staff," said Moody, whose last five Alabama teams have advanced to

## FOOTBALL FANS

### Alabama is in the TFL

For information, please mail your return address with \$3.00 for postage and handling to:

**TFL, Inc.**  
621 North Wahsatch Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903





Reagan Croyle



Sarah Burns



Mark Jollands



Chris Wood



Tania Fabiani



Martha Hoelzer

post-season play. "Of course I understand, and I'm sure everyone else does as well, that it takes a year or two of competition before one can actually rate the overall impact of a recruiting class."

Mills, a 6-2 post player and native of Garland, Texas, led Trinity Valley to the 1996 national JUCO championship and was named the WBCA JUCO national Player of the Year. Trinity Valley is the same school in which current Alabama All-America Shalonda Enis came out of in 1995. Trinity Valley has won the national JUCO title in two of the last three years, including 1996 when it defeated Baragry's team, Independence, in the title game. Enis was the national JUCO Player of the Year in 1995.

Baragry is a 5-8 native of Melbourne, Australia. As a member of the Australian Junior National Team three years ago, she competed against former Alabama All-America Niesa Johnson, who was then a member of the USA Junior National Team.

Croyle, 6-1, is the daughter of former Alabama football player John Croyle, who has gained world-wide fame as founder and director of the Big Oak Ranch, a home for youth. As a senior at Westbrook Christian in Gadsden she averaged 21 points and seven rebounds per game after averaging 21 points and 12 rebounds as a junior. She was the 1A player of the year in Alabama. She also played softball. Off the court, she finished in the top ten in the Alabama Junior Miss pageant.

**T**ide teams and coaches in other sports had a busy late spring, bringing the following athletes to the Capstone for their 1996-97 seasons. Here are new Bama performers in other sports:

Baseball Coach Jim Wells has added 13 players, including six who were previously announced as having signed in the early period last fall. The spring signees are:

Kenny Duebelbeis, a left-handed pitcher from San Jose, California, by way of Canada Junior College; Andy Elrod, an outfielder and left-handed pitcher from Birmingham by way of Shelton State Community College; Matt Greer, a catcher from Shreveport, Louisiana, by way of Texarkana College; Heath Henderson, a right-handed pitcher from Birmingham by way of Central

Alabama Community College; David Mote, a first baseman and outfielder from Hartselle by way of Meridian Community College; and Mark Peer, an outfielder from St. Louis by way of Meramec Community College.

Previously announced additions were Dan Chavers, a shortstop from Sarasota, Florida; Michael Daniel, a right-handed pitcher from Calhoun Community College; Matt Frick, a catcher and infielder from Phoenix, Arizona; Doug Hurst, a right-handed pitcher from Pensacola, Florida; Jarrod Kingery, a right-handed pitcher from Columbus, Georgia; and Robert Vaz, an outfielder and left-handed pitcher from Brooklyn, New York.

Swimming Coach Chuck Horton announced nine athletes have signed letters of intent to join his program in the fall. Joining the women's program will be: Sarah Burns of Chattanooga, Tennessee, (Girls Preparatory School), Brooke Donoho of Timonium, Maryland, (Dulaney) and Jackie Singerland of Scottsdale, Arizona, (Saquaro).

Burns was named Tennessee's Female Swimmer of the Year this year after winning the state title in the 100 and 200 freestyle. Donoho, who will swim the breaststroke at Alabama, placed eighth at the 1994 Spring Senior Nationals in the 200 breast, and Singerland was Arizona's state champion in the 500 free.

The men's team received letters of intent from: Carter Hull of Charlotte, North Carolina, (Providence), Mark Jollands of Durban, South Africa, (Kearsney College), Donald Morrison of East London, South Africa, (Selborne College), Matt Pendleton of Bloomington, Indiana, (Bloomington), Rick Pratt of Montreal, Quebec, (Howard S. Billings), Chris Wood of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, (Lake City), and Michael Geurtz of Hamburg, Germany, (Wirtschaft Gymnasium).

Hull, a butterfly specialist, won North Carolina's 100 butterfly title in 1994 and 1995. Jollands holds the South Africa and Africa record in the 200 and 400 freestyle and was his country's national champion in the 200 free last year. Fellow countryman, Morrison, was the 100 and 400 free champion in his junior year.

Pendleton captured Indiana's state championship in the 100 free his senior year. Pratt won a silver medal at the 1994 Canadian Youth Championships and Wood, who holds

the Idaho record in the 50 and 100 free, won the state title in both events three consecutive years. Geurtz's event in Hamburg was the freestyle.

"The recruiting period is not over yet, but I think we're off to a great start," Horton said. "This is probably the deepest and most talented class we've brought in. They'll still have a lot to do to swim on the SEC level, but I feel they'll give a big boost to our program in the years to come."

The Crimson Tide volleyball team added Kari Weber of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, to its 1996 roster. Kari, a 6-0 middle blocker at Wauwatosa East High School, captained a squad that captured eight tournament titles in 1995. Also captain her junior year, Kari earned all-conference honors in 1993, '94 and '95, along with all-state accolades in 1994 and 1995. Weber's team won the conference, regional and sectional championships from 1992 to 1995, winning state titles in 1992 and '94. A gifted athlete, Weber competed in the Junior Olympics as a swimmer, holds the school record for the freshman long jump and played soccer for eight years.

**W**omen's Golf Coach Betty Palmer announced the addition of Kathryn Cusick, a University of Florida golfer who was ranked as high as 11th in the SEC in stroke average this past season, to the 1996-97 women's golf roster.

"The addition of Kathryn will be a very nice bonus to our team," Palmer said. "She comes to us with two years of experience at the University of Florida. Kathryn played a large part in Florida's high national ranking."

The Jacksonville, Florida, native produced two top 10 finishes this past season, her sophomore year at Florida, and ended with a 79.0 stroke average. Her best finish was a third place showing at the Fripp Island/Ben Hogan Invitational. Cusick's golf background includes winning the 1994 MCI Heritage Junior Classic and being named the winner of the *Florida Times-Union* Player of the Year award four consecutive years. She was also an American Junior Golf Association All-America.

Cusick will be eligible to play immediately for the Tide and will enter the Alabama squad's junior class. Alabama returns all five players from this past season.



Men's Tennis Coach Joey Rivé also received a gift through the mail over the summer, his a letter of intent from one of the nation's top junior tennis players, Marc Urbainczyk. Marc, from Orlando, Florida, is ranked number 14 in the country in 18s and was the number one ranked player in the state of Florida in the 12s, 14s and 16s and number three in the 18s junior divisions. The Bradenton Academy graduate was ranked third in the nation in 16s.

Urbainczyk spent the last year training at the famed Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Florida. His play of late includes a win over the number one-ranked player three months ago.

"I think he's a great, great addition to our program," said Rivé, whose Alabama team advanced to NCAA tournament play this past season. "He has some great results and has been one of the top-ranked kids in the country for many years. I expect him to fit nicely into our program and to provide us with a great deal of depth. I think he's going to make an immediate impact because he's a top quality player."

Alabama has signed two young men to join the tennis team as freshmen in the fall, both recognized nationally. Mason Snider, who Rivé signed in the fall from Tallahassee, is ranked number three in the nation.

Women's Tennis Coach Jim Tressler also made a couple of roster additions, adding Dominique Glinzler and Tania Fabiani.

Glinzler, from Bedfordview, South Africa, played for Coach Des Ward and the Italian Club in Johannesburg. She won the singles and doubles title in 1995, and served as the No. 1 player for her high school team. Glinzler also played field hockey, ran track and cross country and was a member of the swim team.

Fabiani, from Sao Paulo, Brazil, played prep tennis for Coach Carlos Albano at Colegio Elvira Brandao in Sao Paulo. Fabiani will transfer from Universidad De Cordoba, and she reached the finals of the 21-year old age bracket with the club team in Sao Paulo. Another good athlete, Fabiani played handball, volleyball, ran track and was also the captain of her swim team.

The Tide track teams also inked a few players for next season. Joining the men's team is Eric Hindy from Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He was a high-school All-America in the hammer and weight throws.

For the Alabama women, two make their way to the Capstone. Keisha Grant, a sprinter from Decatur, Georgia, was the 1995 400 meter state champion and was the 1994 Atlanta Track Club Woman of the Year for the 400, 4x100 and the 4x400. Martha Hoelzer, a middle distance runner from Huntsville, was the outdoor state champion in the 1600 meters in 1994 and 800 meters champion in 1995. Hoelzer finished either first or second in the 800 and 1600-meter races at all state high school championship meets since 1993. Indoors, she is just as impressive, finishing in the top three in the 800 and 1600 meters every year since 1994,

winning the 1600 meters state championship in 1994.

The fledgling Alabama women's softball team is beginning to take shape under the direction of Head Coach Kalum Haack, as Kristi Black, Christy Caccavo, Karla Contryman, Carrie Moreman and Kristie Reid have already inked with the Tide.

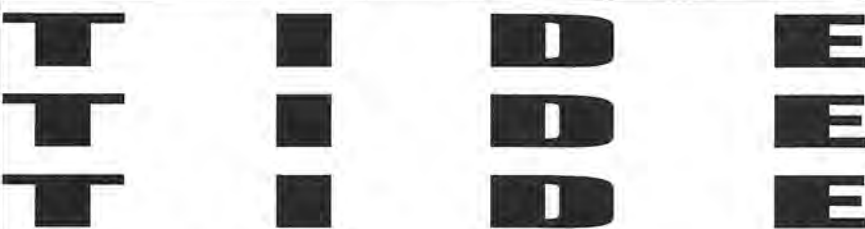
Black, from McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile, was her team's MVP in 1995. Coached by Bill Griffen, McGill-Toolen advanced to the 1995 state tournament in 1995, while Black earned all-state honors along with all-tournament accolades in two season tournaments. Caccavo, from Olathe South High School in Olathe, Kansas, was a member of the 1996 Kansas State championship team, pitching in the final two games that led Olathe to the title. Christy's summer teams, Peppers and Legend, have also attended nationals four times. A solid athlete, Caccavo was also MVP on her basketball team as a freshman and played volleyball.

Contryman, a transfer from Phoenix College in Phoenix, Arizona, earned Junior College All-America honors in 1996. Also a member of the all-conference team in 1996, Contryman helped PJC to the junior college championship title while playing second base. Winner of PJC's 1996 "Hustle Award,"

Contryman also experienced success at the prep level. Coached by Tom James at Moon Valley High School, she was MVP in 1993 and 1994, along with earning honors such as first-team Fiesta Region in 1994, second-team in 1992 and 1993, second-team all-city in 1994, ASA women's B Team second-team All-America and a member of the women's B national championship team and Arizona state championship teams in 1992 and '93.

Moreman is a transfer catcher from Southwestern Louisiana Community College. Coached by Yvette Girouard at USL, Moreman's team advanced to the NCAA Women's College World Series in 1996. As a prep she was coached by Jerry Badgley at C.E. Byrd High School, where she was named three times to the all-district and all-city teams and twice to the all-state team. Additionally, Moreman was named a district MVP and all-city MVP.

Reid, a transfer and teammate of Contryman at Phoenix College, will play outfield for the Tide. A second-team JUCO All-America and first-team JUCO all-region, Reid was coached at Phoenix by Heinz Mueller. As a prep in Mesa, Arizona, she broke Dobson High School's triples record, earned team MVP honors in 1994 and was a member of the first-team all-region and all-conference teams and enjoyed all-star status, also in 1994.



## DON'T LET IT ROLL WITHOUT YOU THIS FOOTBALL SEASON

*Travel with us on our*

### -ARKANSAS ONE DAY CHARTER

*and on our weekend packages to*


### -ARKANSAS

### -NC STATE

### -TENNESSEE

### -LSU

**TO SECURE YOUR  
RESERVATIONS, CALL  
1-800-228-4155**





# A Very Special Year For Gymnastics

by Lewis Each

Every member of the team had a part in Alabama winning the championship

The wooden and gold national championship trophy sits proudly, though cramped, in one of the three gymnastics awards cases in Coleman Coliseum. The piece will most likely make its home there, though it could be moved for a tour at the gymnastics championship display at the Paul W. Bryant Museum. Either way, the trophy is likely to be just one of many crowded residents in a hall filled with football championships or a case packed with gymnastics titles.

The championship was the third national crown for Sarah Patterson, whose charges



Kim Kelly



Stephanie Woods



Meredith Willard

have also produced three Southeastern Conference titles and 10 straight Central Region crowns. The success of the program has dared the Alabama faithful to embrace a new tradition at The University, where the game played with an oblong ball remains the

sun in the athletics solar system.

Proof of this new success walked through the turnstiles at Coleman Coliseum for four nights in April. An NCAA Championship record crowd of 36,573 saw the home team win the 1996 Gymnastics Championship, packing the stands for a sport that doesn't require a ball of any type to score. The Crimson Tide outlasted a powerful Georgia team and failed to bow to a UCLA team that dared to challenge the three juggernauts in the world of college gymnastics.

On Championship Night, 10,955 people charged the coliseum air in anticipation of a championship. Early on, favorites Alabama and Georgia threw punch after punch at the scoresheet but third favorite Utah dropped out of contention. After each team had completed two events, a darkhorse emerged at the front of the pack. The UCLA Bruins had quietly leaped into first place, and after Georgia literally fell out of the hunt, only the Tide remained between the Bruins and a championship.

Even with memories of the past—three consecutive NCAA runner-up finishes—haunting like a ghost of the present, the Tide wouldn't be denied. With the home crowd behind them, Alabama gymnasts tumbled into the lead, taking a .200 margin over UCLA, 148.400 to 148.200. At that point, all the Tide had to do was match the Bruins point for point.

UCLA headed to the floor for its last event, while the Tide faced the vault for its last rotation. Then the explosion that would last for minutes started to combust. After waiting to see the score of the UCLA counterpart, Merritt Booth steamed down the runway and stuck a 9.925 to lead off and widen the gap. Next, Kim Bonaventura followed with a 9.900 and Marna Neubauer matched with another 9.900. Then came Danielle McAdams' vault, a perfect 10.0, and the moment a championship is claimed. The

"QUALITY, SERVICE, COMMITMENT"



**205/762-6222**  
2516 University Boulevard  
Downtown Tuscaloosa

**Fine Art &  
Custom  
Framing**

**Limited  
Edition  
Prints,  
Posters**

**Specializing  
in Sports  
Prints**

**"The Largest  
Daniel Moore  
Dealer in the  
Country"**



coliseum crowd erupted, only to become more thunderous seconds later as Kim Kelly would follow with another 10.0. After NCAA All-Around Champion Meredith Willard stuck a 9.950 for good measure, the celebration began.

**T**he Tide ended up turning a lead into a blowout, winning the championship 198.025 to 197.475 over UCLA. Georgia and Utah tied for third with a score of 196.775. Oregon State took fifth and Michigan finished sixth.

"I guess we don't have to be the bridesmaids anymore, do we ladies," a joyous Patterson asked her team minutes later in the interview room. "We told them earlier this evening that we had enjoyed the journey to this point and now we were going to enjoy our destiny."

Patterson knew early in the season that her team had the potential to be special, saying over and over that her "ladies have the chance to be a great team."

To start with, there was Kelly, the senior who was denied a shot at Olympic gold in 1992 only to claim the gold of a championship ring. Along the way to becoming one of the top gymnasts in Alabama history, Kelly also became a crowd favorite. Tide fans sang along to "Sweet Home Alabama" as Kelly bounced through her floor routine, scoring a 10.0 while her smile was only outdone by the crowd's enthusiasm.

"I could hear them singing the words," Kelly said afterwards. "The crowd was so awesome."

Kelly added, "It's incredible. I've never been on a team that's been this much fun."

Then there was Willard, the junior who had been labeled the rock of the team. She had been the Tide's most consistent worker all year, and her efforts were rewarded the previous night when her score claimed the NCAA All-Around Champion title. Patterson called Willard, who had not been an elite gymnast before college, a "diamond in the rough."

"I have worked since my freshman year to win a national title with the team and we did that, and I just got lucky pulling off the individual," Willard said. "That's like the cake and the icing, and they taste great together."

Next there was McAdams, the sophomore whose 10.0 in the championship exemplified the boost she brought to the team throughout the season.

"I can't even begin to fathom what cloud I'm on, but it's way up there," McAdams said. "It was absolutely awesome. It hasn't even hit me yet."

"I can't describe the feeling it gave us," senior Marna Neubauer said, "especially in our home town in front of our home fans. This being my senior year and my last time to compete, to go out this way is wonderful."

Every member of the Tide team brought something different to the championship, from their talents to their personalities. Junior Kim Bonventura returned from injury to go on the vault and beam. Junior

Stephanie Woods was solid on the beam and bars all season, and her ice cold nerves under pressure provided calm for the team. Sophomores Merritt Booth and Shay Murphy provided the backbone of the lineup, while Heather Nasser excelled in the gym and in the classroom. And though their participation was sporadic, the three freshmen also helped. The injuries Gwen Spidle, Mandy Chapman and Lisa Gianni suffered were a source of motivation for the others, even when their vocal support seemed like enough.

**H**er team consisted of seven Academic All-Americans as well as gymnastic All-Americans, but when McAdams feet stuck to the ground after her first vault, Patterson knew her team would be champions.

"I knew at that point we were not going to be denied and that was the most incredible feeling."

"This has been in 18 years the most wonderful and the most memorable year of coaching that David and I have experienced," Patterson said. "I'm amazed day in and day out by these athletes."

It is now summer and college gymnastics is inactive save for recruiting. It has been four months since the Tide stood on the champi-

onship podium, but the "title" waves are still traveling through the country.

"It has been a tremendous plus for recruiting," Patterson said. "We've been recruiting all over the country and they know that Alabama won the national championship."

The Tide's title makes a hard job a bit easier. While Alabama is one of the top three programs in the country and 1996 champs, blue chip athletes for college gymnastics are few.

With the departures of Kelly and Neubauer, Patterson will look hard for new gymnasts, gymnasts who hope to be able to call themselves champions one day.

When the Tide returns to the mat this fall to prepare to defend its championship, there will be a new face and a new place for Tide gymnasts to meet. After Scott Mackall left to pursue a career in his field of mastery, the Tide hired former Michigan assistant coach Bryan Raschilla to be the new assistant coach. The team will also move into its new practice facility behind Coleman Coliseum. The state-of-the-art gym will provide a championship level facility for the Tide, and is a monument to the program's success at The Capstone.

Unfortunately, this is merely office and dressing room and practice space. There are no trophy cases to ease the burden of the hardware of Bama winning.

**COACH**  
THE LIFE OF PAUL "BEAR" BRYANT  
KEITH DUNNAVANT

**THE TEAM.  
THE MAN.**

**THE WHOLE STORY.**

SIMON & SCHUSTER  
A VIACOM COMPANY



# BAMA SCORECARD

## Predictions

Summertime means the magazine racks are filled with pre-season football magazines. Because of the competitive situation with so many of these publications on the market, every year they hit the newsstands earlier. And that means earlier printing and earlier deadlines for the writers trying to judge the talent of the teams. It's interesting to note that two writers covered every Alabama practice in the spring and neither of those writers was called upon to write any of the Bama stories for the pre-season magazines. Indeed, most of these stories were produced by writers who saw no Alabama spring football practices. In any event, the deadlines for the stories were prior to the completion of spring training at Alabama, and before spring training even started at some schools.

The most pessimistic prediction for Alabama we have run across is *Jeff Whitaker's Alabama-Auburn Preview*, which picks Bama to finish fourth in the SEC Western Division and 21st in the nation. That prediction was made by a writer for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Most predictions have Alabama either first or second (ahead or behind LSU) for the Western crown, and most also predict the winner of the Western Division to lose to the winner of the Eastern Division, in most cases Tennessee, in some cases Florida.

The most optimistic outlook for Bama is from a relatively obscure publication, *Blitz*, which has the Tide ninth in the nation. *Athlon's College Football Southeastern Edition* has Bama 17th in the nation; the Tide is 15th in the country in pre-season predictions by *Lindy's SEC Football* and *Bob Griese's Yearbook*. *Sporting News Yearbook* has Alabama 22nd in the nation.

The publications are basically the same, relying on information from each school's sports information department for the basic team information, schedules, etc. The magazines' "experts" then make predictions on final conference and national rankings, all-conference and All-America players, etc. Then, in order to have some difference, most have developed special (and sometimes ridiculous) categories.

Senior strong safety Kevin Jackson (who wasn't even selected first team All-SEC by SEC coaches last year despite leading the conference in interceptions) would appear to be Bama's most honored player in pre-season. He is named All-America by *Lindy's* and All-SEC by most others.

*Lindy's* had some rankings of players that included Laron White as the nation's 15th best offensive guard, Darrell Blackburn as the 15th best defensive end, Chris Hood as the 18th best defensive end, Dwayne Rudd as the third best outside linebacker, Ralph Staten as the eighth best outside linebacker, Paul Pickett as the fourth best emerging star outside linebacker, Deshea Townsend as the ninth best cornerback and Jackson as the second best safety. (Oddly, Alabama coaches would almost certainly rank Hood above Blackburn and Fernando Bryant, who wasn't even rated, above Townsend.) The magazine said Alabama's defensive line would be the nation's fifth best, the linebacker corps fifth best and the secondary third best.

The Football Writers Association of America, which has a nine-man committee pick a pre-season Top 25, has Alabama 16th with Tennessee picked to win the national championship. (Incidentally, the new president of the FWAA is Corky Simpson, who gained some fame in 1992 as the only voter in the Associated Press poll to pick Alabama number one in the pre-season poll and every week of the season.)

There will be more predictions following the

annual SEC Media Days, scheduled in Birmingham July 30-August 1. Each SEC head coach and two players from each school were to meet with sportswriters and sportscasters from throughout the South (and some national reporters). Stallings was to have center John Causey and strong safety Kevin Jackson with him to represent Bama.

## Faculty Chairman

Alabama has a new permanent faculty chairman of athletics. After Dr. Tom Jones resigned following accusations (later overturned) against him by the NCAA Infractions Committee, former Vice President Culpepper Clark (now dean of the school of communications) served in an interim capacity. This summer Gene Marsh, a professor in the school of law, was named to the post.

## SEC Change

The Southeastern Conference has relaxed its stance slightly on its academic standards, which have been the highest in the nation. Although still not allowing partial qualifiers as permitted under NCAA rules, the SEC will allow a limited number of partial qualifiers on a modified academic scale. Schools may admit eight partial qualifiers—two in football, one each in men's and women's basketball, one in all other men's sports and three in all other women's sports—if the athletes have a qualifying score on the ACT or SAT and a grade point average of between 2.25 and 2.49 in 13 core classes. That is a very small window. However, it is believed that men's basketball signee Alfred Moss of Newnan, Georgia, did not qualify but will be able to attend Alabama as a partial qualifier. He would be able to practice but not play as a freshman.

## Radio Afar

The Alabama Sports Network will have two methods for Alabama fans in far-flung reaches to hear Crimson Tide football and basketball games. For computer buffs who have a modem and sound card, the games will be available on the TASN home page at <http://www.tasn.com>. For others it is possible to pick up games by telephone by calling 1-800-240-BAMA and paying with a credit card. For more information on these services or the possibility of picking up telecasts of pay-per-view games on satellite receivers, call John Gentile at (205) 425-5000.

## Hall Of Fame Nominees

The Alabama Sports Hall of Fame has announced the ballot for the induction class of 1997 and it includes a number with University of Alabama ties.

Nominations are in three groups: Group one is former football, basketball and baseball players; group two all other sports, administrators and media; and group three old-timers (those whose careers ended 40 years ago or who have reached age 70).

In group one, those with Alabama ties include former Bama basketballer T.R. Dunn and former football players Dennis Homan, Scott Hunter, Major Ogilvie and Richard Todd. In group two the nominees include longtime radio announcer John Forney and former Swim Coach (and now Associate Athletics Director) Don Gambril. The old-timers nominated include former basketball player Jerry Harper and former football players Ed Salem and Johnny Wozniak.

The induction banquet will be in Birmingham in February.

## All-Americans

The All-American Football Foundation is hav-

ing its annual banquet at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Mobile on August 17 and a number of those with University of Alabama connections will be honored.

Former Bama footballer Charley Boswell, who gained international fame as a blind golfer after losing his sight in combat in World War II and who died last year, will receive the foundation's Admiral Thomas J. Hamilton Award. The award will be presented by last year's winner, former Tide All-America Holt Rast. Rast will be honored again this year as he and former Bama All-America Fred Sington receive the Pioneer All-America awards. The banquet is dedicated to former Alabama and Auburn coaches, Paul Bryant and Ralph Jordan.

Longtime Tide announcer John Forney will be honored in the media category.

Dr. Roger Sayers, recently retired as president of The University, will receive the College President Award.

Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to the late Wallace Wade, who earned fame as a head coach at both Alabama and Duke.

Former assistant football coaches being honored include Johnny Cain (who played at Alabama, but coached at Ole Miss) and former Tide assistants Pat James and Tom Goode.

The Unsung Hero Award (for players who did not receive full recognition) will go to former Tider Lowell Tew.

Jack Stuart, a trainer at Alabama and Ole Miss, will be honored in his category.

## All-Star

Upcoming senior Alabama basketball star Eric Washington spent the summer as a member of the NIT All-Star Team, playing in Spain and Greece. He was selected for the team, coached by former St. John's Coach Lou Carnesecca, following his performance in the NIT. In five games he averaged 26 points and 8.2 rebounds. Carnesecca was on hand in the consolation finals when Washington poured in 35 points, including five three-pointers.

## Pro

Niesha Johnson, the most-honored player in Alabama basketball history, was drafted by the team she wanted, the Atlanta Glory, and will begin practice September 1 for play in the new American Basketball League, which will play in eight cities from October through March. Former Tider Linda Burgess, who played in France last year, was drafted by New England. Johnson has indicated she also plans to participate in the NBA's women's league, that begins next June.

## Assistant Named

Alabama Head Women's Basketball Coach Rick Moody has added former Tider Tonya Tice to his staff as a full-time assistant. She served as a graduate assistant coach last season. Tice was scheduled to marry Scott Peoples on August 3 in Hamilton.

Another former Alabama women's basketball player, Stacey Franklin, has been hired as an assistant coach at Mississippi State.

## High Pick

Alabama's women's basketball team has four starters returning from last year's NCAA Tournament team, and also has the junior college player of the year and the state's Miss Basketball coming in, as well as all-star Yolanda Watkins returning after having been redshirted last year. As a result, Bama has been picked second in the nation in a pre-season poll by the United States



Basketball Writers and the Tide has been selected to participate in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic to open the 1996-97 season. Bama will join top-ranked Stanford, Connecticut and Western Kentucky in the event at Stanford's Maples Pavilion on November 17. The Bama-Stanford game, a rematch of last season's overtime Sweet 16 contest, won by Stanford, 78-76, and will be nationally telecast by ESPN.

#### High Finish

Alabama's baseball team, which set a school record for victories with 50 (against 19 losses) and appeared in the College World Series for only the third time, finished the season ranked fourth in the nation by *Baseball America*, fifth by *Collegiate Baseball* and sixth in the coaches' poll conducted by *USA Today* and *Baseball Weekly*.

#### Draftees

Coach Jim Wells' team saw nine of its players, including five juniors, selected in the professional baseball draft. All but one, upcoming senior second baseman Joe Caruso (who was most valuable player as Alabama won the SEC Tournament and who was drafted by Oakland), signed pro contracts. Pitcher Skip Ames was signed by the Chicago Cubs and sent to Rockford in the Midwest League, where former Tide pitcher Alan Dunn is pitching coach. Other Tiders now playing professionally and the organizations which drafted them are centerfielder Doug Hall (Cubs), outfielder/pitcher Corey Spiers (Minnesota), pitcher Joel Colgrove (Oakland), pitcher Byron Tribe (Cubs), shortstop Brett Taft (Kansas City), pitcher Tim Young (Montreal) and catcher Dax Norris (Atlanta).

#### Softball Assistants

Alabama begins competition in women's softball next spring, and new Head Coach Kalum Haack has hired Karen Sanchelli, a former South Carolina player and coach, and Patrick Murphy, a former coach at Northwest Missouri State and Southwestern Louisiana, as his assistants.

#### Good Scores

Chip Deason, an upcoming senior for Coach Dick Spybey's men's golf team, finished last season with a stroke average of 72.54, which ranked 13th in the nation. This summer he finished second in the Indian Hills Invitational in Tuscaloosa. Brian Wright, who will be a junior, won the Country Club of Birmingham Invitational, while senior Allan MacDonald was second at the Willow Point Invitational in Alexander City.

#### Contract Extended

Sarah Patterson, who coached the Alabama women's gymnastics team to its second national championship this year, has been given a contract extension through the year 2001. In her 18 years at Alabama Patterson has led the Tide to a 239-49-3 overall mark and won 13 NCAA Regional titles and three SEC championships.

#### Contract Ended

Dorothy Franco-Reed, head coach of Alabama's volleyball team since 1989, and her husband and associate coach Tom Reed, announced this summer they were resigning. Earlier in the spring they had been suspended because of player complaints of abuse. There have been defections from the team, but the squad is expected to have a new head coach in the near future. Bama is scheduled to host the Crimson Tide Classic August 30-31 with New Orleans, Lamar and Valparaiso visiting Tuscaloosa.

#### Soccer Exhibition

Coach Don Staley's women's soccer team will have an exhibition scrimmage in Charlotte, North Carolina, against UNC-Charlotte August

24. The Tide season begins September 1 when Bama hosts Jacksonville.

#### Good Finish

One year after Coach Joey Rive's Alabama men's tennis team won only one match, the 1996 Crimson Tide finished the season ranked 28th in the nation. Marco Mazzotta broke into the final rankings at 97.

#### At Wimbledon

Alabama tennis was represented at Wimbledon this summer as former Tider Ellis Ferreira competed in the main draw doubles.

#### Award Winners

Alabama's Sports Information Office won a number of awards for its 1995-96 publications.

The gymnastics guide written by Rob Woodruff was named best in the nation. The cover of the men's and women's swimming guide, an underwater photograph by Kent Gidley, was also judged best in the nation. The women's basketball guide and women's golf guide, written by Becky Hopf, placed second nationally. The women's tennis guide by Woodruff was fifth and the men's tennis guide by Hopf seventh.

#### Football Press Guide

Alabama's 1996 Football Media Guide is available to the public by mail for \$15 by making a check payable to The University of Alabama and mailing it to Football Media Guide, Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. Upcoming guides in men's basketball (\$10), baseball (\$8) and gymnastics (\$8) may also be ordered.

## 1996-97 Men's Basketball Schedule

The Southeastern Conference basketball schedule-maker made a little progress this year. One aspect of the men's basketball schedule is that a home basketball game is a feature event for high school football prospects making campus visits in January. Last year Alabama had no home basketball games on Saturdays in January. This year the SEC assigned Alabama one home game on a Saturday in January, a contest with LSU on January 25. Additionally, Alabama made its own schedule that will provide another prime Saturday game in January when the Tide hosts Syracuse in a game that will be nationally televised by CBS on January 11.

Syracuse is one of three Final Four teams that will appear in Coleman Coliseum this year. In addition to the Orangemen, the national champion Kentucky Wildcats visit February 19 and the Mississippi State Bulldogs close out regular season play on March 1. Bama's schedule features 14 teams that participated in post-season play last year. Other NCAA participants on the slate are Western Carolina, Virginia Commonwealth and Georgia. In addition, Alabama will host NIT participants Minnesota, South Carolina and Auburn and the Tide will travel to Tennessee and Vanderbilt.

Syracuse and Minnesota (December 5) are the marquee non-conference home games.

Two tournaments and a special events doubleheader highlight the rest of the non-conference schedule, which is otherwise typically lackluster. Bama will open the season at the Top of the World Classic in Fairbanks, Alaska. Alabama will meet North Carolina-Wilmington in the first game on November 22. The rest of the field includes 1996 NIT participant Providence, Baylor, Southern Illinois, Middle Tennessee State and Alaska-Fairbanks. Bama will also play in the Cable Car Classic, which the Tide won in 1992. The field includes San Jose State (Alabama's opponent on December 27) and Santa Clara, both of which were in the 1996 NCAA Tournament, and Detroit Mercy.

A scheduled Tuscaloosa game against Virginia Commonwealth, coached by former Auburn Head Coach Sonny Smith, has been moved to the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center as part of an interesting doubleheader. While Bama meets VCU (Tide Head Coach David Hobbs' alma mater) on December 21, Auburn will take on Murray

State, coached by former Crimson Tide star Mark Gottfried.

Alabama has one other game already scheduled for national television, the Tide's game at Auburn on January 28 on ESPN.

The SEC schedule-maker put Alabama on the road to start conference play, the seventh time in the past ten years that has been the case. The Tide opens league play at Vanderbilt on January 4.

Alabama has two exhibition games, but only one named opponent, Marathon Oil on November 8. Another exhibition game will be played on November 14.

Here is the complete schedule.

| Date   | Opponent                 |
|--|--------------------------|
| Nov. 8                                       | Marathon Oil             |
| Nov. 14                                      | Exhibition               |
| Nov. 22-                                     | Top of the World Classic |
| Nov. 24                                      | @ Fairbanks, Alaska      |
| (Alabama vs. UNC-Wilmington Nov. 22.         |                          |
| Other participants Baylor, Middle Tennessee  |                          |
| State, Montana, Providence, Southern         |                          |
| Illinois, Alaska-Fairbanks)                  |                          |
| Nov. 30                                      | Northeastern Illinois    |
| Dec. 2                                       | Arkansas-Pine Bluff      |
| Dec. 5                                       | Minnesota                |
| Dec. 7                                       | @ Florida International  |
| Dec. 14                                      | Western Carolina         |
| Dec. 18                                      | North Texas              |
| Dec. 21                                      | VCU @ Birmingham         |
| Dec. 27-                                     | Cable Car Classic        |
| Dec. 28                                      | @ Santa Clara, Calif.    |
| (Alabama vs. San Jose State, Santa Clara vs. |                          |
| Detroit Mercy)                               |                          |
| Jan. 4                                       | @ Vanderbilt             |
| Jan. 8                                       | @ Ole Miss               |
| Jan. 11                                      | Syracuse                 |
| Jan. 15                                      | Arkansas                 |
| Jan. 18                                      | @ Florida                |
| Jan. 22                                      | South Carolina           |
| Jan. 25                                      | LSU                      |
| Jan. 28                                      | @ Auburn                 |
| Feb. 1                                       | @ Mississippi State      |
| Feb. 5                                       | Georgia                  |
| Feb. 8                                       | @ Tennessee              |
| Feb. 12                                      | Ole Miss                 |
| Feb. 15                                      | @ LSU                    |
| Feb. 19                                      | Kentucky                 |
| Feb. 22                                      | Auburn                   |
| Feb. 26                                      | @ Arkansas               |
| March 1                                      | Mississippi State        |
| March 6-                                     | SEC Tournament           |
| March 9                                      | @ Memphis                |



## A passion for printing. Your way.

EBSCO Media exists totally to serve our customers. In a high speed world of automation, electronics, and deadlines, we remain a company obsessed with old fashioned service. Your budget, your deadline, your quality standards, your satisfaction, are our obsessions. We use the tools and techniques of the modern world to accomplish these things, never losing sight of our primary goal, pleasing you.

Achieving that goal takes two important ingredients: it takes an incredibly well designed printing plant and it takes an incredibly well designed attitude on behalf of our employees. We have meticulously created and designed one of the most streamlined, productive printing plants in the nation, with plenty of room, plenty of light, and every timesaving system available.

EBSCO personnel, from sales consultants to shipping clerks, participate in company profits. Our hands-on management policies, team-like approach, and employee incentives keep our people motivated to work for you. But underneath all that, they're just special. They won't rush you off the phone or shuttle you to someone else. You'll find they not only know the business technically, they care.



**EM** EBSCO MEDIA

801 Fifth Avenue South  
Birmingham, Alabama 35233  
(205) 323-1508

division of  
EBSCO  
INDUSTRIES, INC.





NUMBER ONE

WAY TO  
FOLLOW  
THE  
CRIMSON  
TIDE.



Bama Magazine has been giving Alabama fans the inside story on all aspects of Crimson Tide Football since 1979. Our readers get the facts and figures, but also get the story behind

the story. We profile the stars and the stars-to-be, coaches, and even the stars of yesteryear as we remember Alabama tradition. And for the best and most accurate recruiting information, nothing compares. A subscription brings you 10 full-color magazines and 14 newsletters mailed first class. We don't stop with football season, either. Keep up with all Alabama sports, August through May. Great gift idea, too!



1-800-713-2261



**PLEASE SEND ME ONE YEAR  
(24 ISSUES) OF 'BAMA FOR  
ONLY \$35.00**

Total amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ subscriptions. Alabama residents add \$2.00 sales tax each order. Overseas add \$10.00 each order.

Make checks payable to: 'Bama Magazine  
P.O. Box 6104  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486

Payment Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT

TO: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ New Subscription \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

If THIS IS A GIFT,  
Gift From: (name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_





82 3/4"(H) x 23 7/8" (W) x 14 3/4" (D)

# Celebrating A 100 Year Football Tradition

## THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

### GRANDFATHER CLOCK

*playing the*

## "ALABAMA FIGHT SONG"

Emperor Clock Company proudly presents *The Century*, a Limited Edition Grandfather Clock in Solid Cherry or Oak commemorating the 1992 National Football Championship.

Just imagine owning this extraordinary grandfather clock! Each hour of the day you will hear *The Century's* solid brass movement playing the famous "UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA FIGHT SONG", and you will remember the thrill of seeing the University of Alabama football team declared 1992 National Champions. You may also select Westminster chimes, Vienna strike, or silence, if you prefer.

Adding even more to *The Century's* uniqueness is the brass lyre pendulum engraved with every year the University of Alabama won a national football championship. *The Century* also features beveled glass waist door and sides.

Don't miss this splendid opportunity to own this unique tribute to Alabama's legendary football teams. *The Century* is sure to become a treasured family heirloom.

Each clock will be registered at the headquarters of Emperor Clock Company in Fairhope, Alabama, and each owner will receive an engraved and numbered solid brass plaque. Only 500 clocks will be available. Coach Gene Stallings received Number 1 in the Crimson Tide Suite at the university in Tuscaloosa on Thursday, August 5.



**Don't miss out. Order yours now!**

LIMITED EDITION  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
1992 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS  
NO 1 OF 500

Engraved, Brass Lyre Pendulum

Registered, Solid Brass Plaque

***The Century* Limited Edition Grandfather Clock: \$1,495.00**



**EMPEROR®**  
CLOCK COMPANY  
WORLD FAMOUS MANUFACTURER  
OF GRANDFATHER CLOCKS

©1993 Emperor Clock Company. All Rights Reserved.

To Order Call:  
334/928-2316 in Alabama  
or 1-800-642-0011 outside Alabama

[WWW.EMPERORCLOCK.COM](http://WWW.EMPERORCLOCK.COM)